Today's
The Herald-Palladium
included inside

Chieftains win share of conference title
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Dowagiac News

Established 1897 • Serving Dowagiac, Sister Lakes and Cassopolis **OCTOBER 18, 2025** leaderpub.com • A publication of The Herald-Palladium **$4**

Berrien/Cass Beekeepers Club to host open house

Photo provided

The Berrien/Cass Beekeepers Club conducts an apiary day at Honey Hill Farms in Dowagiac.

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

DOWAGIAC — A local club is hosting an event aiming to educate southwest Michigan about nature's most famous pollinator.

The Berrien & Cass County Beekeepers are hosting an Open House at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 21 for anyone interested in beekeeping. The open house will take place at the Southwestern Michigan College Dowagiac Campus in the MCC West Room, Library Building. New and experienced members are invited to attend for fellowship, refreshments, and information on how to get started.

Traditionally held in the spring, this is the first time the open house will be held in the fall.

"That is an effort to get people engaged sooner so that during the slow winter months when beekeepers are building boxes or non-beekeeping kinds of things," said Treasurer Maya Miller. "It gives them a longer runway to get started and if people are interested in starting in the spring, now is a great time to start attending meetings."

Established in 2019 by Theodore Schrader and Brad Cloutier, the Berrien/Cass Beekeepers Club is a nonprofit that merges hobby beekeepers and commercial beekeepers alike with a commitment to education as a member of the Michigan Beekeepers Association. The club is dedicated to promoting responsible beekeeping practices, fostering a supportive community of bee enthusiasts and sharing knowledge about honeybees and the vital role they play in the ecosystem.

Miller said the beekeeping season was a successful one.

"Our bees are really thriving this year," she said. "We chose not to draw a lot of honey off and keep our bees sustained through the winter. We're not really sure what this winter is gonna look like and that's something that every beekeeper has to decide on their own. Are they in it for the honey, or are they in it for the bees? That's a personal choice. We decided to let our bees reap their own harvest."

The club meets from 6 to 8:30 p.m. on the third Tuesday of every month at Southwestern Michigan College's O'Leary building (room 301) to host presentations and guest speakers to discuss bee related topics and provide education.

The club also offers services for swarms of honeybees that are out in the open. In addition, the club also hosts apiary days – typically two per month – that allow members to take a more hands-on approach to beekeeping. Monthly club meetings and apiary days are open to the public.

While a goal of the club is to recruit new beekeepers, the club is also aiming to bolster its roster of veteran beekeepers. The club plans to add courses on honey harvesting, setting up farm stands in Michigan, jar labeling and more.

See **BEEKEEPERS**, page A4

Maxwell Harden / Leader Publications

Twisted Bee Cannabis Dispensary has approximately 5,000 square feet currently unused that it will be renovating into a consumption lounge. From left: General Manager George Santos, Assistant GM Dakotah Schnooberger, owner Tyler Cahall.

Dowagiac gives green light to consumption lounges

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

DOWAGIAC — The Dowagiac City Council moved Monday to approve an amendment to its marijuana ordinance that will allow social consumption of cannabis in designated areas of dispensaries.

Consumption lounges are places where people can go to socialize and consume cannabis. The resolution will add designated consumption licenses as an authorized permit type and set the limit at three of those licenses. The item had been tabled during a meeting last month after councilmember Laura Desilets asked for more information regarding the proposed amendment before making the decision.

According to council documents, when the City adopted their adult use marijuana license regulations in 2022, the actions included a resolution which established the types and number of establishments allowed. Those included three each of growing establishments, processor establishments, secure transporter establishments and safety compliance facilities. It also provided for six total retailer and/or microbusiness establishments.

At that time, the council chose to prohibit consumption establishments, event organizer and marihuana event permits. There has been some discussion of the last couple of years among city leaders about adding consumption lounges as an acceptable permit type but there was not enough information from similar sized communities to determine potential impacts. After seeing similarly sized communities in Hartford, Jones and New Buffalo offering consumption lounges, the city found those operations to have minimal impact on police enforcement.

See **LOUNGES**, page A4

Under the Harvest Moon Festival returns to Dowagiac

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

DOWAGIAC — Michigan's colorful autumn took center stage in downtown Dowagiac during the 14th Annual Under the Harvest Moon Festival last Saturday.

Throughout the day, downtown retailers hosted activities and special in-store promotions, giving festival goers plenty of opportunities to shop local and explore. The festival's centerpiece was its open-air marketplace, featuring more than 60 vendors offering antiques, artisanal and handcrafted goods, fall produce, and sweet treats.

Another fan favorite was the display of both new and vintage farm tractors, which add a unique touch of heritage to the fall celebration. Guests also enjoyed live music by the Kalamazoo-based band Special Guest which performed in Beckwith Park.

Children's activities were also hosted by The Bridge Church, ensuring family-friendly fun for all ages.

"This year's Under the Harvest Moon Festival was one for the books," said Greater Dowagiac Chamber of Commerce Marketing & Event Coordinator Matt Money. "The weather couldn't have been better, our vendors and food trucks showed up in full force, and the streets were packed with visitors enjoying everything downtown Dowagiac has to offer. The band Special Guest filled the air with great music, and you could feel all the warmth and spirit of fall throughout the day."

Photo provided

2025 Miss Dowagiac First Runner-up Meg Charles (left) and Miss Dowagiac Amelia Bakeman (right) participated in the annual Under The Harvest Moon Festival in Dowagiac.

"This year's Under the Harvest Moon Festival was one for the books," said Greater Dowagiac Chamber of Commerce Marketing & Event Coordinator Matt Money. "The weather couldn't have been better, our vendors and food trucks showed up in full force, and the streets were packed with visitors enjoying everything downtown Dowagiac has to offer. The band Special Guest filled the air with great music, and you could feel all the warmth and spirit of fall throughout the day."

Caruso's owner Julie Johnson was happy to see the return of the festival and said her most popular items that day were her caramel apples and caramel apple shake.

"We couldn't ask for better weather for a fall festival," said Caruso's owner Julie Johnson. "We're happy to have these festivals. They bring more people to town and it's free, fun family entertainment."

The Chamber thanked the corporate sponsors for making the festival possible, including Central Produce, Rohdy's Heating and Cooling, Anderson Replacement Windows, UHY Accounting Firm, and US Lumber Company.

Dowagiac Chamber of Commerce celebrates business award winners

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

DOWAGIAC — The Dowagiac Chamber of Commerce hosted its annual Membership Meeting Wednesday at the Dowagiac Elks Lodge bringing together local business leaders, community members, and Chamber supporters for an evening of reflection, recognition, and celebration.

The event highlighted the Chamber's efforts in supporting the economic vitality of Dowagiac and surrounding areas, while also honoring those who have made significant contributions to the community.

Four awards were presented, each recognizing leadership, service and commitment to Dowagiac's growth and vitality.

Business of the Year: Dowagiac District Library

The Dowagiac District Library was honored for transforming the local library into a vibrant hub for connection, creativity, and lifelong learning. From family programming to innovative community engagement, the library has become a cornerstone of inclusion and inspiration for residents of all ages.

Shining Star Award: Paul McGowen, Commander of the Dowagiac VFW

McGowen was recognized for his transformative leadership in revitalizing the Dowagiac Veterans of Foreign Wars Post. Under his guidance, membership has increased by more than 70 percent, and the organization has re-emerged as a welcoming space for veterans and a vital contributor to the community.

Community Service Award: The Bridge Church

The Bridge Church received this honor for its continued commitment to community connection through volunteerism, outreach, and family-friendly events. The church's spirit of generosity and inclusivity exemplifies the heart of what makes Dowagiac a close-knit community.

Young Professional of the Year: Corey Skorupa

Skorupa, a licensed Electrical Contractor – the highest level of certification in his field –was recognized for his drive, integrity, and

See **CHAMBER**, page A6

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Today's obituaries • Page A3

Kathy Hamilton
James Kaniuga
Norma Hunt
David Groner
Anna Goodman
Rev. Scott Smith
Mary Leak
George H. Glassburn

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OBITUARIES

James Kaniuga

December 27, 1949 – September 30, 2025

James Kaniuga was 75 years old in passing on 30 September 2025 at The Timbers of Cass County. "Jim" was born on 27 December 1949 at Lee Memorial Hospital in Dowagiac, MI. He attended Holy Maternity of Mary Catholic Primary School, Dowagiac Union High School, and Southwestern Michigan College where he was acclaimed for the highest admissions test scores. He was a devout member/donor of Dowagiac's Holy Maternity Of Mary Catholic Church.

Jim read non-fiction voraciously, and was a devoted Beatles music fan. He was a member of the DUHS Art Club who painted realistic oil portraits of the Beatles and various others. In the 1960s he designed ways to integrate Radio Shack analog and digital computer kits. He also designed and built complex HO scale train layouts.

Jim was a phenomenal athlete who could out run people riding bicycles and dead-lift the rear end of a full size 1960's sedan, yet he disdained competition, saying he did "not want to beat anybody".

In his adult years, Jim was noted for his exceptional memory capabilities and content contributions to the Dowagiac Daily News and Chicago Tribune. Jim enjoyed efficiently completing many home renovations and remodeling projects.

As the third born member of the large Kaniuga family Jim enjoyed helping his four younger brothers learn walking, reading, drawing, sciences, bicycling and whatever ... Jim was appreciated for kindness and helpfulness to all those around him and his extremely thoughtful gift giving.

Jim was predeceased by his parents; Stephen and Ellen Kaniuga. Jim is survived by his Brothers; John Kaniuga, Joseph (Molly) Kaniuga, Steven Kaniuga, Gregory (Pamela) Kaniuga, and Robert Kaniuga, and Sister Patricia (the late Donald) Stockton; his niece Andrea, and his ten nephews; Michael, Trent, Richard, David, Geoffrey (Stockton), John, Justin, Jason, Ryan and Sean; and seven great nieces and nephews; Julian, Lainie, Gavin, Parker, Maisie, Eliza, and Anya.

A memorial service is planned to honor Jim at 11:00 AM, on Thursday, 23 October 2025, at Dowagiac's Holy Maternity Of Mary Catholic Church, 219 N Front St, MI 49047. (269) 782-2808. (https://www.holymaterniityofmary.com). Participants are invited to attend the Holy Mass and also participate in the memorial services and join the luncheon in the church lower level. Funeral services have been entrusted to Clark Chapel and Cremation Services, Dowagiac. Those wishing to sign Jim's Memory Book may do so at www.clarkch.com.

David Groner

July 20, 1943 – October 13, 2025

David LeRoy Groner was born July 20, 1943, in San Francisco, California & passed away Monday, October 13, 2025 surrounded by his daughters in Reed City, MI at the age of 82. David was the owner of Groner funeral home in Dowagiac from 1970 – 2007. David relished spending time with his family assisting him with funeral operations and comforting those in need for thirty-seven years. David was a planner; he loved being busy and truly enjoyed working. He had a heart for people, supporting locally owned businesses, volunteering in his community, and serving worldwide. David had a full venturesome life that leaves his surviving family/friends' endless stories to tell & moments they'll cherish forever. The full obituary can be read https://www.kepikefuneral.com.

David is survived by his daughters; Michelle (Scott) Lyon, Kristi (Jeff) Wyman, & Jeni (Jeremy) Sauve. Grandchildren Hailey (Caleb) Moser, Elizabeth (Aeden) Ligon, Thomas (Alyssa) Lyon, Anita (Jaden) Gresham, Evan Wyman, Bryce Sauve, Brady Sauve, & one great grandchild on the way, Baby Ligon. Also surviving is his former wife Nancy Spedowski, siblings; Floyd (Cheryl) Groner, Gloria Groner, Sharon (Dan) Bolthouse, & Tom Groner. Additionally, his five nephews, eight nieces and their families. David was greeted in heaven by his savior, parents Ivan & Alma, nephew Jordan Groner, nephew in-law Christopher Miller, and a host of other special relatives that have gone before him.

Visitation will be held at K.E. Pike Funeral Home, Cedar Springs, Sunday, October 19th from 2:00-4:00. Funeral services will begin at 4:00 upon conclusion of the visitation. Burial will be private for immediate & extended family on a future date. David & his daughters have set up & distributed so many flowers for past funerals. We thank you in advance for partnering with us to support The Comfort Home and give back to this wonderful organization as opposed to sending flowers. Monetary donations can be mailed to The Comfort Home, 204 N Patterson Road, Reed City, MI 49677, or contributions can be made online at https://thecomforthomemi.org. Additionally, we encourage you to honor David's memory by becoming active in an organization or cause.

Kathy Hamilton

December 24, 1949 – October 7, 2025

Kathy Ann (Krassow) Hamilton, a lifelong resident of Niles, Michigan, passed away peacefully on October 7, 2025, at the age of 75. Born on December 24, 1949, to the late Richard and Betty (Hemphill) Krassow, Kathy's warm presence and gentle spirit were a blessing to all who knew her.

Kathy's early years in Niles were filled with the love and camaraderie of her family. She was the cherished sister of Elwood (Goldie) Krassow, Craig (Pam) Krassow and David Krassow. The bond she shared with her brothers was one of mutual respect and affection, a connection that only deepened with time. Her marriage to Jake Hamilton, who preceded her in death, was a testament to enduring love and partnership.

Professionally, Kathy dedicated many years of service to Niles Precision, where her keen eye and meticulous nature earned her the role of a respected inspector. Her colleagues remember her not only for her professional acumen but for her extraordinary kindness. Kathy's willingness to lend a helping hand and offer words of encouragement left an indelible mark on the hearts of those she worked with.

Beyond her work, Kathy was known for her diverse interests and hobbies. She had a profound love for her German Shepherds, devoting countless hours to their care and training. Her passion for reading was unmatched, with a library of books that was as varied as it was extensive. Kathy also found enjoyment in sewing and she could sew anything with a precision that mirrored her professional life. Her creations were expressions of her love and thoughtfulness.

Those who knew Kathy would describe her as loving, gentle, and thoughtful. Her actions spoke volumes, and she lived a life that embodied these qualities every day. She was a listener, a confidante, and a friend who approached every situation with empathy and grace. Her nieces and nephews, as well as extended family and friends, will carry forward the wisdom and compassion she imparted.

Kathy's departure leaves a void in the community of Niles, but her legacy of love and kindness will continue to inspire those who were fortunate enough to know her. As we bid farewell to Kathy Ann (Krassow) Hamilton, we celebrate a life well-lived, full of moments that brought joy and comfort to others. Her memory will be cherished and kept alive in the stories shared and the lives she touched.

Those wishing to make a memorial donation have been asked to consider the Cass County Animal Control, 323 M62, Cassopolis, MI 49031.

As per Kathy's wishes, there will be no public services or visitation. The family kindly asks for your understanding and encourages you to remember Kathy in your hearts.

Kathy will be laid to rest in a private ceremony, surrounded by her family and the beautiful Michigan landscape she so dearly loved. As the seasons change and the years pass, we will remember Kathy not with sadness but with a smile, knowing that her spirit remains with us, guiding and encouraging us to live with the same love and gentleness she so effortlessly displayed.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Brown Funeral Home & Cremation Services.

Mary Leak

July 9, 1940 – October 15, 2025

Mary Lou Leak, 85, of Cassopolis, died peacefully in the comfort of her family's presence.

Her life began July 9, 1940 in Elkhart, the first of three children born to Ada and Raymond Hibshman.

Mary could often be found playing bingo at the VFW in Cassopolis. She loved games of all kinds. She never missed family game night. Mary had a pal Little One, who will miss her. Mary enjoyed crafts, like knitting and crocheting. She regularly spent many hours talking to family on the phone. Most importantly, she loved being with her family.

Mary will be greatly missed by family and friends.

She is survived by former husband and longtime friend, Albert Leak of Cassopolis; two daughters, Debra Watts of Cassopolis, Linda Leak of Goshen; one son, David Leak of Goshen; eight grandchildren, Melissa Watts of Cassopolis, Michael Higgins of Cassopolis, Christina (Branden) Higgins Smith of Cassopolis, James Leak of Goshen, Stephanie Smith of Constantine, Candy Ann (Bobby) Heath of Sturgis, Avery (Mikayla) Rickey of Illinois, Mickayla Sage of Vandalia; many great grandchildren; two great-great grand-children, Arabella Brumbelow, Ashton Jerraid; three sisters, Shirley Sherow of Goshen, Anita Carrick of Oceola, Betty Hernandez of Tennessee; two brothers, Russell Hibshman of Elkhart, Robert Steiner of Tennessee and a host of nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents, three brothers, Larry Signs, Raymond Hibshman jr. and Richard Hibshman.

Family and friends will gather Saturday, October 18, 2025 from 10:00a.m. until the time of her service at 11:00a.m. in Wagner Family Funerals Connelly Chapel, 202 North Broadway Street, Cassopolis.

Mary will be laid to rest in Edwardsburg Cemetery.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Wagner Family Funerals Connelly Chapel, Cassopolis. Please share a memory or a message online: wagnercares.com.

Anna Goodman

March 21, 1979 – October 9, 2025

Anna Marie Goodman, 46, of Niles, died peacefully October 9, 2025 in the comfort of home. Her life began March 21, 1979 in Niles.

Anna grew up in Galien. She was known as a friendly and happy go lucky person. She would always have a smile and talk to anyone, even when she wasn't feeling well. Anna loved babies and animals, she would always stop by and say hi whenever she passed. She enjoyed watching Reba with friends and family, and enjoyed her music. Anna relaxed to music in general asking Alexa for music all day. Most importantly, she loved her family. Not a day went by she wouldn't mention them.

Anna will be greatly missed by family and friends. She is survived by her father, David E. Dynes of Galien; six sisters, Chastity Reprogal of Colorado, Christie Bates of Elkhart, Tina (Sam) Gardner of Sault Ste Marie, Angie Lee of Buchanan, Heather Nelson of North Carolina, Marta Dynes of Niles; two brothers, Davey Dynes of Buchanan, Marty Dynes of North Carolina and a host of nieces and nephews. Anna was preceded in death by her husband, Walter L. Goodman; mother, Patti and sister, Holly Dynes.

Family and friends will gather date, Friday, October 17, 2025 from 10:00a.m. until her service at 11:00a.m. in Halbritter Wickens Funeral Services, 615 Main Street, Niles, Michigan 49120.

The family prefers contributions be made in memory of Anna be made to David Dynes or Tina Gardner.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Halbritter Wickens Funeral Services, Niles. Please share a memory or a message online: halbritterwickens.com.

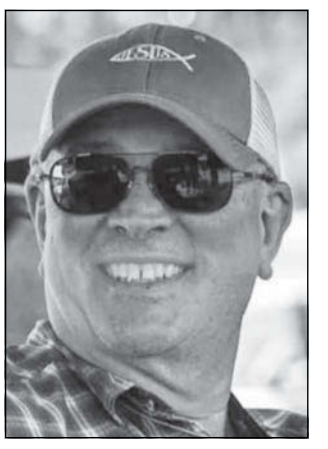
Death notices

George H. Glassburn, 75, of St. Joseph, died Sunday, October 12, 2025. Arrangements are pending at Wagner Family Funerals Connelly Chapel, Cassopolis.

Norma Hunt, 90, of St. Joseph, passed away Sunday, October 12, 2025. Arrangements have been entrusted to Allred Funeral Home in Berrien Springs. Watch for service details on website. www.AllredFuneralHome.com

Rev. Scott Smith

March 31, 1964 – October 9, 2025



Rev. Scott Brian Smith, age 61 years of Niles, Michigan; son, father, brother, bluegrass musician, chef, and current pastor of the Portage Prairie United Methodist Church in Bertrand Township, Michigan, died peacefully on Thursday, October 9, 2025 at home in the church parsonage, unexpectedly, but of natural causes.

He was born on March 31. 1964 in South Bend, Indiana to Max Utah and Kaye Marguerite (Livings) Smith, and has lived in Niles all of his life. He was graduated from Niles High School where he had been a member of Niles' first Varsity Soccer team, and a member of Niles' last Varsity Hockey team, having reached the greatest number of goals scored by an individual player in Niles hockey history, and remains the all-time leading scorer to this day.

He continued his education at Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo, where he earned his Bachelors Degree, and at Bethel College (now University) in Mishawaka, Indiana where he earned his first Masters Degree. He was employed for many years as a chef, serving in the kitchens of the former Barkley's Restaurant in South Bend, the former Pickwick Club of Niles, and the Knollwood Country Club.

He returned to college several years later, attending the United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio, earning the degree of Master of Divinity in 2013. His first pastorate was at the Weidman (Michigan) United Methodist Church, and in 2019 became the pastor of the Portage Prairie United Methodist Church, leading from behind the pulpit, and from behind the guitar, working with the congregation's worship band.

Scott was active in Niles community events, assisting in the leadership of the Niles Bluegrass Festival, and adding the Niles Jesus Fest, gathering members of many area congregations to the riverfront to sing praises, hear the Word spoken, and Baptizing new believers in the Saint Joseph River. His interest in Bluegrass music led him to learn several instruments in addition to the guitar, becoming proficient on the mandolin, the keyboard, and more recently, the pedal steel guitar.

He remained an active fan of athletics, especially the Detroit Red Wings Hockey team, but also the Chicago Cubs Baseball team, and all athletics at the University of Notre Dame. He continued to enjoy working in the kitchen, experimenting with exotic meats such as camel, and found great pleasure in mixing pot-luck meals with live bluegrass performance.

Scott was preceded in death by his father, Max U. "Mike" Smith on November 10, 1984, and by a sister, Kristine "Kris" Smith on August 30, 2014.

Surviving family includes his children, Louisianna (& Joseph) Buckhanan and Amanda (& Joshua) Wolfe, both of Niles, and Emily (& Cody) Robinson of South Bend; four grandchildren; Scott's mother, Kaye Smith of Niles; Scott's sisters, Cathie Smith and Michele Smith, both of Niles; several nieces and nephews; a wonderful circle of fellow musicians and festival friends, and his congregation at Portage Prairie.

The funeral service for Pastor Scott Smith will be at Noon on Monday, October 20, 2025 at the Portage Prairie United Methodist Church, 2450 Orange Road in Bertrand Township, with Senior Pastor Jeffrey Whittaker of the Michiana Christian Embassy in Niles officiating. Committal will follow in the church's graveyard, the Portage Prairie Cemetery.

Visitation will be on Monday, at the church, beginning at 10:00 a.m. Contributions in memory of Pastor Scott may be made to continue his ministries at the Portage Prairie United Methodist Church, 2450 Orange Road, Niles, Michigan 49120; https://www.theprairiechurch.com/. Arrangements were completed at the Halbritter-Wickens Funeral Home, 615 East Main Street in Niles. Condolences and memories may be left at:

www.halbritterwickens.com

The webpage for Portage Prairie Church includes this introduction to their pastor: "Pastor Scott is a passionate leader with a heart for both God and community. When he's not preaching the gospel, you'll likely find him enjoying the beauty of the great outdoors or strumming some instrument to some good ol' bluegrass tunes." The neck of Scott's guitar includes the scripture reference Gal 5:22, which is: "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness". His introduction ends with: "Pastor Scott is committed to guiding others in faith with warmth, humor, and a whole lot of heart."

Pastor Scott fulfilled ... and has now completed ... that ministry.

Obituary policy

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OPINION

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Regular mail: Editorial Page, Leader Publications, 25 N. 2nd St., Niles MI 49120

All letters should include a daytime telephone number and street address for verification. Letters must be 500 words or fewer. Leader Publications reserves the right to edit letters for length, style, grammar, inappropriate content and libel.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

In support of LMC proposals

Dear Editor,

Law Enforcement agencies across the state have the need to send newly hired officers to a police academy. Area leaders reached out to Lake Michigan College regarding this need. The response was swift and effective. Within 10 months the College received all state approvals, purchased equipment, hired instructors, and today 27 officers who graduated from the LMC police academy are on the job in local agencies protecting and serving the residents of Southwest Michigan. The quality of the training is one of the best in Michigan.

Lake Michigan College has been serving local employers and residents for decades. Let's not take this great community resource for granted. LMC is an important asset in training, retraining, and higher education. For two straight years it has been ranked as the top community college in Michigan for affordability, student retention rate, and a student to faculty ratio of 13 to 1. Our area high school students can earn a high school diploma and an associate's degree at the same time with the innovative Early-Middle College program and can earn college credits in high school as well. It saves families thousands of dollars and helps to retain our kids and grandkids right here in Southwest Michigan.

LMC is seeking a millage renewal on the ballot in November and has reduced the capital millage request by 50 percent. I appreciate the fact the College chose to cut its' capital millage request by 50 percent. The renewal is not an increase and locks the tax rate in for 20 years and pays 20 percent of the college's operating budget.

Lake Michigan College is important to our area, and I urge you to join me and vote Yes on both proposals either by absentee ballot or on November 4th.

Chuck Heit
Berrien County Sheriff

BEEKEEPERS

From page A1

"We want to get new beekeepers, but we also are focusing this year on engaging three-to-five-year beekeepers. We want to keep people engaged after they get their hives set up. We really invest heavily on that and help new beekeepers but once people are three-year beekeepers, they're like, I've got everything I need to know here. So we're trying to add more things that engage people that have been in it more and have existing, thriving hives."

Miller added that a focus of the club will be on hive alternatives.

"There are so many different kinds of hives, you know, we start everybody with a langstroth, but there are Warre hives, top bar hives, Slovakian hive houses, there are so many different things but we've been so focused on the new beekeepers that we haven't been able to expand into that. As we're growing, we can fi nally have more committees and member engagement to do more of that."

Honey bees, both wild and domestic, play a role in the world's food supply. According to greenpeace.org, bees pollinate about 70 out of the top 100 human food crops which supply about 90 percent of the world's nutrition.

Miller encourages anyone interested in learning more about beekeeping to attend Tuesday's open house.

"We really pride ourselves on helping people to be beekeepers instead of be-havers," she said. "Getting involved early before you make that investment and learning from the people that have already done that and kind of stumbled ahead of them is the best way to learn if beekeeping is for you. There's so many ways to be an ally to beekeepers without necessarily keeping bees and we've all been there before. Our most successful beekeepers are the ones that come to the club before they have bees and learn about it absolutely. We've also helped them by just splitting our hives and giving it to them.

"We're such a homesteading community in that way where we're sharing the wealth of our own hives. It's a great way to get started rather than ordering all the supplies. There's a lot of information out there, but nothing compares to experience and we have boots on the ground."

For more information, visit bcbeekeepers.org.

SMC hosts Michigan mathematicians

By JOHN EBY
Southwestern Michigan College

Photo provided

Dr. Keith Nabb from the University of Mary Washington speaks at a mathematics conference hosted by SMC.

DOWAGIAC — A mathematics conference hosted by Southwestern Michigan College brought more than 50 educators to the Dowagiac campus on Oct. 11.

Interim President Brent Brewer welcomed the Michigan Mathematical Association of Two-Year Colleges (MichMATYC) to Mathews Conference Center West.

Chair of the SMC Math/Science Department and Professor of Mathematics Robin Shipkosky introduced keynote speaker Dr. Keith Nabb from the University of Mary Washington in Fredericksburg, Va.

For his topic, "The Active Learning Imperative: A Small Change with a Big Impact," Nabb said he embraced active learning in 2012.

Active learning is an instructional method that involves students actively participating in the learning process through activities such as discussion, problem-solving and projects, rather than passively receiving information through lectures.

"My goal is to give you little things you can use on Monday," Nabb said.

He demonstrated an activity called Four Corners, dividing participants based on whether they're active-learning professionals, if they're becoming believers from using it consistently, if they use it sporadically or if they're brand new.

"The reason this is good is it makes you get up, which is an active task – not passive," Nabb said.

Four breakout sessions filled the rest of the day. Nabb presented "Curiosity in Calculus."

Steve Tuckey, the Raven Endowed Chair for Mathematics and Engineering at Jackson College, for example, addressed how instructional practices must evolve to account for artificial intelligence (AI) tools such as Chat GPT and MathGPT.

Dr. Rabia Gul Kirikcilar of the University of Michigan and Megan (Mack) McCormick of the University of Utah shared fi ndings from an ongoing study exploring the experiences of community college students in math classrooms at three institutions, with a focus on college algebra.

Dr. Brian Mulholland of the University of Notre Dame tackled "Practical Pathways to Alternative Grading."

Alana Tuckey, Kristi Laird and Allison Price of Jackson College discussed "Implementing Hy-flex on the Cheap."

Hy-flex combines the terms "hybrid" and "flexible." Hybrid learning refers to integrating complementary face-to-face (synchronous) and online learning (asynchronous) experiences.

Dr. Gerry Cox of Lake Michigan College presented various proofs of the Pythagorean Theorem, including one by Ann Condit, 16, a South Bend high school student, in 1938; and another by Albert Einstein when he was 12.

Pythagoras' theorem is a fundamental relation in Euclidean geometry between the three sides of a right triangle.

It states that the area of the square whose side is the hypotenuse is equal to the sum of the areas of the squares on the other two sides.

LOUNGES

From page A1

Tyler Cahall, owner of Twisted Bee Cannabis Dispensary, 56271 M-51 S, Dowagiac, believes consumption lounges will provide safe and supportive environments for enthusiasts to consume cannabis. The facility has approximately 5,000 square feet currently unused that Cahall is renovating into a consumption lounge. Cahall estimates his lounge – which would become just the fourth in the entire state – could be open as early as January or February if the state application and inspection processes go smoothly.

"The entire team here at the Twisted Bee are incredibly grateful for the opportunity to bring something new and exciting to the Dowagiac community," Cahall said. "With the approval of our new consumption lounge, we're not only creating a welcoming space for community events and activities but also providing a safe and educational environment for responsible cannabis consumption."

"With the approval of our new consumption lounge, we're not only creating a welcoming space for community events and activities but also providing a safe and educational environment for responsible cannabis consumption."

TYLER CAHALL
Owner, Twisted Bee Cannabis Dispensary

Cahall views the consumption lounge as the "next step" for the business, especially given the high tax rate on the cannabis industry. The lounge – which will feature a bar area, indoor and outdoor seating, TVs, snacks and mocktails – is intended to be a fun vibe and a community resource, not just a place for parties or events. It aims to offer something different from local bars, catering to a generation that increasingly prefers cannabis over alcohol.

"We've seen the repercussions of alcoholism," Cahall said. "Our generation would much rather pick up a joint over alcohol and mocktails are a popular alternative as well."

For Cahall, a key mission for his consumption lounge is education and safety. He plans to use the space as a platform for medical professionals to host events and discuss products, showing people how to use cannabis safely and responsibly.

According to Cahall, the dispensary is already a draw for Dowagiac residents and beyond, with many people driving from Niles because they "love our vibe."

"We literally had to set up a Niles discount because we get so many Niles people," said General Manager George Santos.

Cahall thanked the council for approving the ordinance amendment. He said his business is focused on using the opportunity to give back to the community.

"I want to sincerely thank Mayor Lyons, the Dowagiac City Council, Matt Money, Eileen Crouse and all the community members who took the time to attend meetings, ask thoughtful questions and share in our vision for this project," he said. "Their openness and support mean so much, and I'm excited to see this space become a positive addition to our community."

City moves forward with water service line investigation project

In other business, the council moved to authorize Plummer's Environmental Services to complete the City of Dowagiac Water Service Line Material Investigation Project. The city is moving forward with the project after terminating its initial contract due to performance issues. The city's engineering representative, Abonmarche, recommended that the contract be awarded to the next lowest bidder, Plummer's Environmental, for $405,875. The project is funded by a $600,000 State of Michigan Technical, Managerial, and Financial Grant. The grant funding is designated for identifying lead service lines throughout the community.

The initial contract was awarded in April 2025 to a previous bidder. Following several issues, the city consulted with the state, which authorized the city to terminate that contract and move to the next bidder if the original terms could be met.

The entire project – which calls for contracting out the identification of 975 service lines, with city operations already identifying 100 service lines that were reimbursed by the grant – is still expected to be completed by the original June 2026 deadline.

"The good news is that we have enough funding left in the grant to be able to pay for this entire contract as well, so there will be no out-of-pocket expenses for this project," said Assistant City Manager Amanda Sleigh.

In further business, the city authorized the lease of a 2025 Ford Interceptor police vehicle from Enterprise Leasing to replace the sergeant vehicle.

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Buchanan man gets prison time on drunk driving charges

By DEBRA HAIGHT
For Leader Publications

NILES — Two area residents were sentenced to prison on Monday in Berrien County Trial Court at the Niles courthouse.

Benjamin Lee Freeman, 48, of Berrien Springs, pleaded guilty to criminal sexual conduct-assault with intent to commit penetration and attempted third-degree criminal sexual conduct and was sentenced to concurrent terms of 76 months to 120 months and 38 months to 60 months in prison.

He has credit for 59 days served and must pay $326 in fines and costs. He must register as a sex offender.

The incident occurred in April, 2013 in the Berrien Springs area against a minor child but was not reported to police until July, 2024.

FREEMAN

Berrien County Assistant Prosecutor Myrene Koch said Freeman's actions have had a negative and traumatic effect on the victim that will ripple through their life. Koch said the victim has moved out of the state and has had to deal with a lot of anxiety.

Defense attorney James Champion said Freeman is a different man than the person who committed these crimes after finding the Lord and working for an area church. Champion said Freeman has a lot of community support from his church and others in the community.

Freeman said he was very sorry about what happened and knows that his actions have consequences.

Berrien County Trial Court Judge Gordon Hosbein said that he found the sentencing guidelines to be appropriate and additionally that it was appropriate to sentence Freeman at the top end of the guidelines. "There is no excuse for these actions," he said.

Rodney Allen Stuart, 48, of Buchanan, pleaded guilty to third offense drunk driving and was sentenced to 18 months to five years in prison with credit for 60 days already served. His license was revoked and he must pay $1,558 in fines and costs.

The incident occurred March 16 in Buchanan. His blood alcohol level was found to be .157, nearly twice the legal limit and he also had THC in his blood.

Koch noted that this was Stuart's 6th drunk driving conviction and that he has a total of eight felony and 14 misdemeanor convictions with at least 12 probation sentences.

Other area residents received jail and probation terms.

STUART

DAVIS

HOLCOMB

LOPEZ-RUIZ

Gregory William Davis, 32, of Niles, pleaded guilty to larceny in a building and was sentenced to 90 days in jail with credit for 67 days served. He must pay $198 in fines and costs.

The incident occurred Aug. 7 in Niles.

Robert Randall Holcomb, Jr., 39, of Buchanan, pleaded guilty to stealing/retaining a financial transaction device without consent and was sentenced to 120 DAYS in jail with credit for 65 days served. He must pay $698 in fines, costs and restitution.

The incident occurred Oct. 9, 2023 in Buchanan.

Enrique Lopez-Ruiz, 22, of Berrien Springs, pleaded guilty to assault with a dangerous weapon and was sentenced to nine months in jail with credit for 74 days served and $258 in fines and costs.

The incident occurred July 28 in Berrien Springs and involved throwing bleach on a woman.

He also had his probation revoked and was sentenced to 365 days in jail with credit for 73 days served from a previous aggravated assault conviction against the same woman.

Judge Hosbein said his primary goal was to protect the victim and ordered him to have no contact with her. Lopez-Ruiz is from Guatemala and is believed to be in the country illegally.

An Ohio youth was sentenced to probation for an incident at Red Bud Track and Trail in July.

Ian William Crisenberry, 20, of Ohio, pleaded guilty to malicious destruction of personal property $1,000 to $20,000 and was sentenced under the Holmes Youthful Training Act to 18 months probation, credit for one day served, 180 hours of community service and $598 in fines and costs.

The incident occurred July 6 in Buchanan Township when he threw a mortar into a porta-potty at Red Bud Trail and Trail. The conviction will not go on his record if he is successful on probation.

Marcellus man gets prison time for stealing walnut tree

By DEBRA HAIGHT
For Leader Publications

CASSOPOLIS — A Marcellus man who stole a walnut tree earlier this year in Pokagon Township was sentenced to prison Friday in Cass County Circuit Court.

Trevor Michael Wallace, 36, of Marcellus, pleaded guilty to concealing stolen property over $1,000 but less than $20,000 as a habitual offender in August and was sentenced Friday to 38 months to five years in prison. He has no credit for time served as he is on parole. He must pay $3,548 in fines, costs and restitution.

The incident occurred Dec. 21, 2024 at a property on Old Mill Road in Pokagon Township. Wallace and others cut down a fully mature hardwood walnut tree and Wallace later tried to sell the lumber to an area mill.

WALLACE

The property owner, Jesse Bement, spoke before the sentencing about the legacy left by his grandfather who established the farm after he came back from World War II. Bement said his grandfather planted trees to promote soil conservation, to provide shade for the animals on the farm and to also be a future source of income if they were ever cut.

"In my heart, it hurts me that his foresight and preplanning were seen as a payday for someone who wanted to take the benefit without putting in the work," he said.

Bement said the incident has also made his children feel unsafe in their home as they worry about people going by and stealing more trees. He did thank his neighbors and other community members who have offered their support after the theft.

"When the case was initially brought, people thought it was just a tree but it's obviously more to it than that," Assistant Prosecutor Jason Ronning said. "It's becoming a new way for people to make money as they cut down trees and sell them at lumber mills. There's no licensing or registration for trees."

Ronning noted that Wallace has eight previous felony convictions and 14 misdemeanor convictions. He said Wallace was arrested Thursday for meth possession and for turning in a lawnmower that didn't belong to him at a recycling center.

"It's important to send the message to farmers and any other property owner that this type of offense is taken seriously," Ronning added.

Defense attorney Greg Feldman said that he was skeptical about the restitution of $2,000 for the tree and was also concerned that Wallace is the only one being charged when several other individuals were involved. Feldman pointed out that Wallace has served five months in jail and received no credit for that time since he is on parole.

FEE

WEAKLEY

HOLDEN

Three other area residents were also sentenced Friday.

Terry Elizabeth Fee, 64, of Vandalia, pleaded guilty to possession of methamphetamine and was sentenced to 18 months probation, credit for 34 days served and $548 in fines and costs. The charge will be reduced to a misdemeanor if she's successful on probation.

The incident occurred June 18 in Vandalia.

"I don't know what you want out of your life but you're not going to get there with meth," Judge Herman said. "The only place it will get you is jail if it doesn't kill you first. I hope you take this opportunity and address your issues."

Travell Maurice Weakley, 35, of Dowagiac, pleaded guilty to third offense domestic violence, fleeing and eluding police and resisting and obstructing police and was sentenced to 365 days in jail with credit for 301 days served and $2,814 in fines and costs.

The incidents occurred Sept. 17, 2024 in Dowagiac for the domestic violence incident and Dec. 14, 2024 in Howard Township for the other incident. Weakley also has a pending domestic violence case in Berrien County.

Chad Holden, Jr., 18, of Elkhart, pleaded guilty to attempted resisting and obstructing police and was sentenced to credit for six days served and $1,475 in fines and costs.

The incident occurred July 3 in Ontwa Township near Edwardsburg.

Berrien court sets January trial for fatal DWI case

Niles homicide case set for December

By DEBRA HAIGHT
For Leader Publications

NILES — The trial for a Buchanan man accused of driving drunk and killing a Berrien County Road Department worker in July, 2022 in Oronoko Township has been delayed from early December until late January, 2026.

The trial for Taylor Ryan Johnson is set to start Jan.28 with a status conference set for Jan. 14. The trial had previously been scheduled to start Dec. 3. Johnson was in court Wednesday for a case conference.

JOHNSON

Johnson, 37, of Buchanan, faces a charge of driving while intoxicated causing the death of Berrien County Road Department worker William "Mack" Isom on July 20, 2022. If convicted, he faces a maximum penalty of 15 years in prison and a fine of up to $10,000.

The July 20, 2022 incident occurred on Red Bud Trail in Oronoko Township and took the life of Isom who was trimming tree branches in the roadway. The preliminary breathalyzer test (PBT) administered after the accident showed Johnson with a blood alcohol level of over .19 which is more than twice the legal limit.

The case has been delayed a number of times since the 2022 incident with Johnson's attorneys appealing trial court decisions to the Michigan Court of Appeals and Michigan Supreme Court. The most recent set back at the COA came in early June when Johnson's appeal regarding the suppression of evidence was denied.

Wednesday, Berrien County Trial Court Judge Gordon Hosbein told Johnson's attorney, Jessica LaFond, that he would delay the trial one last time to accommodate an expert witness for the defense but that it would be the last delay.

LaFond said Wednesday that Daniel Billington, an accident reconstruction expert witness she plans to call, would not be available to testify if the trial was held starting Dec. 3.

"Jan. 28 is the date certain for the trial regardless of whether your expert is ready or not," Judge Hosbein told LaFond. "I find that to be reasonable. We are no longer going to wait for his availability."

Judge Hosbein also asked the prosecution to be ready. Assistant Prosecutor Jerry Vigansky has been handling the case but is retiring at the end of the year. The judge told Vigansky to have the case prepared and ready to turn over to someone else to try the case.

A case conference was also held in another high-profile case. Rease Pence is accused in the 2022 homicide at a Niles apartment complex.

Pence was not in court Wednesday but his attorney, Carri Briseno said she is still going through what she called a "significant amount" of discovery materials in the case. A status conference is set for Nov. 17 and a trial for Dec. 3.

PENCE

Pence, now 20, formerly of Dowagiac and Niles, remains in the Berrien County Jail on $2 million bond. Pence faces four counts in this case: one count each of open murder, carrying a concealed weapon, receiving, concealing or possession of a stolen vehicle and the use of a firearm in the commission of a felony.

The incident occurred May 12, 2022 at the Arbor Trails apartment complex on the city's north side. Court records indicated that a 14 year old juvenile, Gavin Blankenship, was shot in the incident and later died from his injuries. Pence was identified as a person of interest in the investigation.

He faces a maximum of life in prison if convicted of murder, five years on the weapon and stolen vehicle charges and a consecutive two year term for the felony firearm.

Pence was brought back to Berrien County earlier this summer from Indiana where he is serving a 120 year prison term. He was convicted after the Niles incident of the 2022 murders of two Niles women in northern St. Joseph County just south of the state line.

Pence is also facing additional charges from the time he has been in the Berrien County Jail. He has been arraigned on four counts of resisting and obstructing police and one count of assault of a prison employee from Sept. 15 and Sept. 19 incidents at the jail.

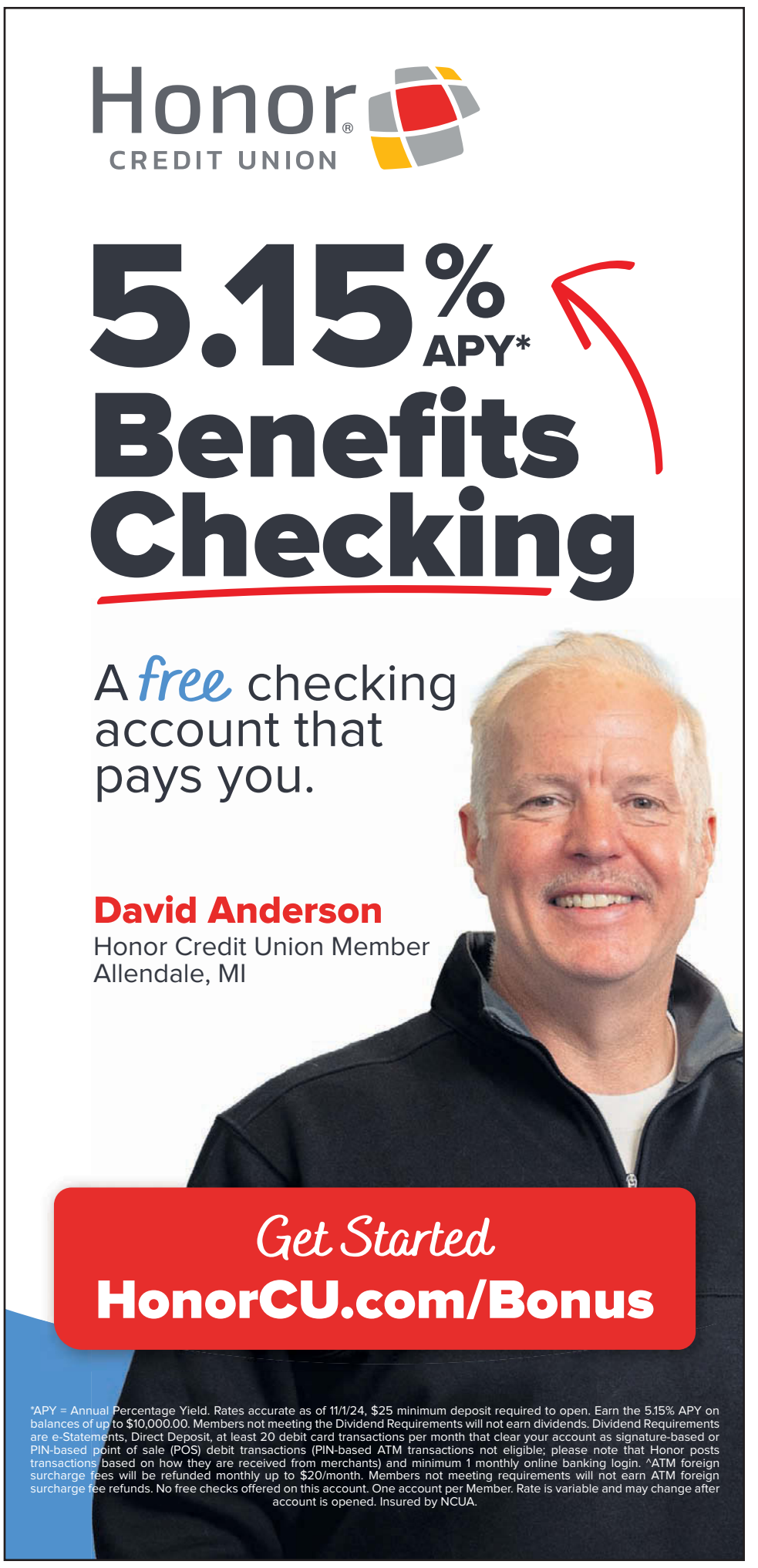
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Photo provided

The Dowagiac District Library earned Business of the Year. From left: Pam Kanigua, Sue Watson, Erin Amundsen.

CHAMBER

From page A1

entrepreneurship. His professionalism and leadership represent the next generation shaping Dowagiac's future through hard work and community engagement.

During her annual address, Chamber President Kris Soenen highlighted the organization's mission to support local commerce and promote the Dowagiac area as a thriving destination for business, family life and tourism.

"Our mission to drive commerce in Dowagiac, Sister Lakes, and the surrounding area remains at the heart of what we do," said Soenen. "Through events, education, and community partnerships, the Chamber provides opportunities for businesses to grow, connect, and succeed."

In 2025, the Chamber expanded its reach through new initiatives, including:

A partnership with the Women's Business Center to offer workshops on small business management, taxes, and growth strategies.

The launch of Decorate Dowagiac, a volunteer-led effort to enhance the city's holiday streetscapes.

Third annual publication of Destination Dowagiac, a local guide and membership directory that promotes area attractions and business connections.

Added Shop Talk for contractors, builders and manufacturers to its line up of networking events that foster collaboration among members, and include monthly Business After Hours and Lunch with Leaders.

The Chamber also produces nine major events and festivals annually, such as the Under the Harvest Moon Festival, Ice Time Festival and Summer Festival and BBQ Competition – each bringing visitors, energy, and revenue to the Dowagiac area.

The Chamber recognized its Board of Trustees, including Vice President Dr. Tim Dowsett, Treasurer Mandy Wallace, Secretary Emily Shrock, and Trustees Jordan Anderson, Jason Olivarez, Zena Burns, Don Pye, and Nick Bogen.

Photo provided

Paul McGowen, Commander of the Dowagiac VFW, was awarded the chamber's Shining Star award.

Special recognition was also given to Marketing and Event Coordinator Matt Money for his leadership in executing successful community events throughout the year.

The evening also included remarks from Carla Swanson, Community Engagement Specialist with the Office of Governor Gretchen Whitmer, underscoring the strong partnership between local and state efforts to spur small business growth and community revitalization.

"Dowagiac's revitalization is part of a broader statewide effort to invest in people, upgrade places, and win projects," Swanson said. "Through programs like the Revitalization and Placemaking grant, we're transforming vacant and underused spaces into new housing and vibrant downtown destinations. Every Michigander deserves a safe, affordable place to call home – and projects like this help make that vision a reality."

For more information on Chamber programs, events, and membership, visit DowagiacChamber.com or follow the Chamber on Facebook at @Dowagiac Chamber.

DOWAGIAC

City OKs event, resolves misunderstanding over approval process

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

DOWAGIAC — The Dowagiac City Council unanimously approved an event on Monday that took place Tuesday night, but not before addressing a misunderstanding regarding the approval process for events.

More than a dozen people attended the meeting in support of Charlie Kirk Day, a memorial and celebration event organized by Pamela Olivarez that took place Tuesday night. The event featured a parade through town and a gathering at the Dowagiac District Library Pavilion for prayer, speeches, music, games and more.

The event was perceived by many in attendance as being held up by the city, with some questioning why the event had to be approved by the city before City Manager Kevin Anderson clarified that council approval is required for any event that reserves public spaces, like streets and parks, or requires additional police protection and/or traffic control. The special event permit primarily serves as a reservation to assure the group has exclusive, uninterrupted use of the public space during that period, not just permission.

Without the permit, the space remains open to anyone, and the organizing group would have no right to exclude others.

Anderson emphasized that the permit is not about "any judgment" on the event's subject but a formal necessity to coordinate assembly and reserve space. The process is handled the same way as other major events, including the Candlelight Christmas Parade, Under The Harvest Moon Festival and Michiana Pride Festival.

According to community members in attendance, a key source of public confusion was the lack of signatures from Anderson and council members on the event application. Anderson explained that a special event of this type requires City Council action. The application was placed on the agenda because it requires council approval and was submitted in between council meetings. Lyons stated that his signature is only a procedural formality that occurs after the council has officially taken action and approved the motion. He added it would be inappropriate for him to sign it before the council had acted.

The conversation ended with a public apology by one of the members in attendance, acknowledging a "miscommunication" and misunderstanding of the city's procedures.

Mayor Lyons thanked the citizen for the apology.

"We appreciate that because we do try hard."

Dowagiac approves SMCAS ambulance service agreement

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

DOWAGIAC — The Dowagiac City Council approved a three-year Emergency Medical Services Agreement with Southwestern Michigan Community Ambulance Service, Inc. on Monday.

The agreement comes after the city and several neighboring townships – Pokagon, Silver Creek, Wayne, and Volinia – formed the Northwest Cass County Ambulance District in December 2024 to address changes in the market for ambulance services following the abrupt closure of Pride Care in August 2023. The NCCAD and the Central Cass ambulance authority have been negotiating with SMCAS since August 2023 to secure long-term service for their communities.

"I think it's been a long time coming but this does bring some assurance and stability to an area that's been unstable for a couple years now," said City Manager Kevin Anderson."

The agreement stipulates that SMCAS will provide one fully staffed Advanced Life Support vehicle to the NCCAD service area. The vehicle and staff will be housed in the city-owned ambulance building at the corner of Pokagon Street and Enterprise Drive. SMCAS will cover the utility and maintenance costs for this building.

SMCAS will be responsible for all staffing, equipment, patient care, patient billing, and liability for personnel and patient care. The first year of the contract is budgeted at $525,000 for the NCCAD. The cost will be adjusted to the actual expense at year-end. The City of Dowagiac's share of this cost is $146,000.

Funding Formula: The NCCAD members will share the total cost based on the following formula: one-third based on taxable values, one-third based on census/population values and one-third shared equally by each local unit of government.

Each member community must authorize the contract before the NCCAD can finalize the agreement with SMCAS. The city council has elected to use an annual Special Assessment procedure to pay for its share of the contract, with funds collected through summer tax bills.

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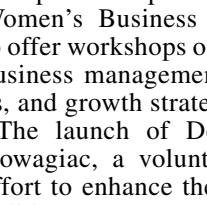
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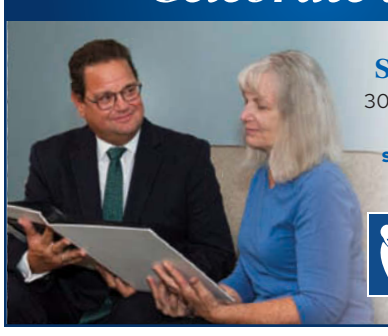
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Sports

Got results?
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Don Campbell / HP staff

Edwardsburg's Brayden Fischer heads the ball over St. Joseph's Mitch Culver and Evan Searles during Thursday night's district championship in Vicksburg.

Fischer's fantastic finish

Late goal lifts Edwardsburg over St. Joseph for district title

By BEN SANDERS
For Leader Publications

VICKSBURG — Edwardsburg's Brayden Fischer was right on time with another game-winning goal.

Fischer scored with 2:38 left to give the Eddies a 2-1 win over St. Joseph in Thursday's Division 2 boys soccer district championship game. Edwardsburg defeated Lakeshore 2-1 in Tuesday's semifinals, also on a goal by Fischer with 2:38 left.

"It's so exciting, everyone's so pumped," Fischer said. "You wait the whole game to do that, and it's just awesome."

Edwardsburg (16-1-1) advances to play Plainwell at 5 p.m. Tuesday in the regional semifinals at Portage Central.

Maverick Gates scored Edwardsburg's first goal in the 23rd minute, and that lead held up for almost the entire game. St. Joseph (15-3-2) spent much of the second half on the attack, and finally broke through on a shot by Remy Kelm with just 4:50 left on the clock.

"Our culture is to never say die, always keep fighting," Edwardsburg coach Sean Jesse said. "They just have that mentality. It was incredibly stressful the last five minutes. This team is resilient, they find ways to win, they find ways to put themselves in great spots."

Edwardsburg responded with a through ball from Gates that put Fischer one-on-one with the goalkeeper, and he finished to put the Eddies back up for good.

"I was running down the middle, and I remember seeing Mav play a ball over my head," Fischer said. "My back was to the goal, and I turned, and I saw no one was there, so I just started running really fast. I just shot it, and it was crazy."

St. Joseph's last-ditch efforts to equalize were unsuccessful, and Edwardsburg claimed its second district title in three years.

"We got the goal, and then just got a little too crazy, and it happened," St. Joseph coach John Brown said. "That's part of the game, that's playoff soccer. I thought Edwardsburg did a phenomenal job. They worked extremely hard. They wanted it really, really bad."

See **FINISH**, page B2

Dowagiac runs past Buchanan

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

BUCHANAN — For the first time in 13 years, the Dowagiac Chieftains are conference champions.

The Chieftains defeated the Buchanan Bucks 40-26 at Memorial Field Friday, Oct. 17 to clinch a share of the Lakeland Conference title with Buchanan. The victory, fueled by Dowagiac's speed and physicality, creates a potential three-way tie for the title. Berrien Springs, who split games with Dowagiac and Buchanan earlier this season, can join them as co-champs with a win next week against Brandywine.

"It's our brand of football," said Dowagiac Head Coach Duane Davis. "When somebody wants to play our brand against us, I just hope we're better at it and hope we can come out on top. Our guys took the game plan and went with it all week, and our game plan was to come out and be fast and physical. That's what we do, that's our brand, and that's what we're going to keep doing."

Maxwell Harden / Leader Publications

The Chieftains defeated the Buchanan Bucks 40-26 at Memorial Field on Friday night to clinch a share of the Lakeland Conference title with Buchanan.

The loss is Buchanan's second straight after losing 35-8 to Millington last week. Like last week, the Bucks' defense struggled against a physical run team. The Chieftains out-gained Buchanan 421-252 in total yards, including a 351-90 edge on the ground.

"We played hard to the end," said Buchanan Coach Mark Frey. "We've missed too many tackles, and a lot of those led to big plays. We'd get them into third and long and such and you miss tackles and they run a long way. You gotta be proud that we fought hard. Now you gotta share the conference title, which is unfortunate, but it is what it is."

Buchanan initially took the lead in the first quarter with an 11-yard touchdown run by Max Cornelius to make the score 6-0 after a failed two-point conversion. Dowagiac then responded with a 32-yard run by Quentin Hill but the extra point was blocked, tying the game at 6-6. Dowagiac closed out the first quarter scoring with a short touchdown run by Cameron White and a successful extra point from Johannah McDonald to give the Chieftains a 13-6 lead.

Dowagiac stretched its lead in the second quarter when Quentin Hill scored his second touchdown of the night on a 17-yard run, moving the score to 20-6. Buchanan kept the pressure on when Brody Reed hauled in a 44-yard touchdown pass from junior Cy Carlin, though the two-point conversion was unsuccessful, to make the score 20-12.

The Chieftains answered right before halftime with a touchdown run by Devin Rock, and the successful extra point gave the team a 27-12 lead heading into the break.

"I think we did great," Hill said. "We came out in the first half, did a great job on defense and offense. I love how the coaches trusted me in this game. They put the ball in my hand quite a bit. I always got to give credit to my line no matter what, they did their job."

After a scoreless third quarter, Buchanan made it a one-possession game in the fourth after blocking a punt, leading to an 11-yard touchdown catch by Reed from Carlin. The successful two-point conversion cut Dowagiac's lead to 27-20 with 7:15 remaining. When the Chieftains needed a play, they turned to Hill, who sealed the win for Dowagiac with his third touchdown of the night, a 52-yard run (extra point no good) that pushed the score to 33-20. On the next Dowagiac possession, Skyler Vincek connected with Devin Rock for a 40-yard touchdown pass, extending the lead to 40-20.

"The mentality was, as always, 'We're good, we're good,'" Hill said. "We always come back with the same mentality no matter what. Even if we're down, we know what's going to happen, we'll come back."

The Bucks scored the game's final points on a 6-yard pass from Carlin to Reed (conversion failed), resulting in the 40-26 final score.

"They just got a really good interior," Frey said. "I think we could do most of what we did. We drove it right down on the first series and just couldn't emulate that over and over. So once we were able to throw it a little bit and get on pace there, we were good, but again, it's too little too late."

Carlin completed 14 of 18 passes for 159 yards and three touchdown passes to Reed, who caught seven passes for 91 yards. Cornelius had 15 carries for 68 yards and one touchdown.

On defense, Reed and Ryan Hickok led the defense with six tackles each.

"He did a good job," Frey said of Carlin. "I think he missed a couple things, but that comes with being new and he's only gonna get better from here, so we're proud of him.

Davis credited his senior class, who have been with him since the seventh grade and helped transform the program.

"That group has been with me since they were seventh graders when I first got the job," Davis said. "They were right there with me in the weight room, not giving up and continuing to grind. They saw the bad right at the beginning, and they were like, 'coach, we're going to help. We're going to keep coming' and they did. They put time in the weight room and this is what happens."

The Bucks aim to regroup from their second straight loss and get back on track next week against Benton Harbor. Frey said the team will do whatever it takes to turn things around.

See **DOWAGIAC**, page B2

Buchanan soccer falls to Berrien

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

WATERVLIET — For one half, the Buchanan boys soccer team looked primed for a Division 3 district upset of Lakeland Conference champion Berrien Springs.

Unfortunately, the Shamrocks had other ideas in the final 40 minutes of play.

Berrien Springs scored five unanswered goals to defeat Buchanan 5-1 and advance to Friday's Division 3 district championship match against Hartford at Watervliet.

Berrien Springs' Caiden Ward tallied three goals while Majesty Dube and Miles Mathews added goals of their own. Senior Ben Bosse scored in the second half for Buchanan's lone goal.

"It's just tough," said Buchanan Coach Ryan Haines. "They're just so fast. It's hard to coach speed, and they have a game plan and they execute very well. Every single time they get the ball, we just really tried our best to just stop everything they could do and to get it away from [Ward]. He played a heck of a game and we just tried our best to just keep the ball away from them, but when someone's as incredibly quick as he is, it's tough. "It's a tough loss but we'll use it as motivation to just move forward."

Tied 0-0 in the closing minutes of the first half, Ward beat Buchanan goalkeeper Charlie Cowart to take a 1-0 lead into halftime. In the opening minutes of the second half, Ward found the back of the net again to take a 2-0 lead with 38:13 remaining. Dube and Mathews would add goals of their own to make it a 4-0 game before Ward scored his third and final goal to give the Shamrocks a 5-0 lead with 6:47 remaining in the game.

See **BUCHANAN**, page B2

SMC women's wrestling coach shooting for the moon

By JOHN EBY
Southwestern Michigan College

DOWAGIAC — Ashley Courtney, Southwestern Michigan College's first women's wrestling coach, comes from a prominent central Kentucky wrestling family.

Her father introduced her to the sport at 7. Her second-oldest brother, Harrison, a four-time state champion, coaches the mat men at their Woodford County High School, which has won 13 state championships, celebrating more than any other Kentucky High School Athletic Association (KHSAA) school with 61 individual champions.

Courtney wrestled for four years at a National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) school, the University of the Cumberlands in Williamsburg, Ky., home of the Patriots and mascot Patriot Pete – not to be confused with the Cumberland University Phoenix east of Nashville in Tennessee.

The Cumberland Gap is a pass through the long ridge of the Cumberland Mountains, within the Appalachian Mountains and near the tripoint of Kentucky, Virginia and Tennessee.

Courtney, who served as team captain for two years, graduated cum laude in May with degrees in biology and communication arts intending to pursue environmental journalism. "Stuff like National Geographic. You plan for one thing, then life spins you in a different direction," said Courtney, who wrote for the school newspaper in high school.

Wrestling on the boys varsity, she was a KHSAA boys state qualifier.

"I wouldn't call myself a pioneer," she said, "but when I was younger, I was often the only girl at a tournament. I wrestled at 106 pounds, the lightest weight class, and wrestled mostly boys, although my sophomore and junior years, women's wrestling kind of started to take off.

"I wasn't the first girl to make it to the boys state tournament. There was one girl before me, Priscilla. I've met her."

Campbell County's Priscilla Brownfield competed in the Kentucky state wrestling tournament in the 103-pound class in 2006, according to the Cincinnati Enquirer.

"My dad wrestled and has been a coach going on 40 years," Courtney said. "Two out of three of my older brothers wrestled. It was just natural to think this is what I'm going to end up doing because it was what I was around all the time. I grew up at wrestling tournaments. My younger sister was the stat girl, like the manager of the team."

Her hometown, Versailles, the county seat of Woodford County, sits 13 miles west of Lexington and has a population of about 10,000. Her grandfather farmed tobacco.

"It's spelled the same as the palace (near Paris, France), but it's pronounced like 'sales.' "

Truth be told, she's more nervous about enduring a Michigan winter than the upcoming inaugural women's wrestling season.

"I've crocheted myself a couple hats and a couple scarves," she smiled. "I'm on to mittens next. I've got to get myself a good pair of snow boots because the Farmer's Almanac said this is supposed to be a bad winter."

Photo provided

Ashley Courtney Southwestern Michigan College's first women's wrestling coach.

Starting out, Courtney remembers "crying in the middle of every match – even if I was winning," though she was plucky enough to never

See **COACH**, page B2

Notre Dame shuts down NC State 36-7

By SCOTT HASSINGER
For Leader Publications

SOUTH BEND, Ind. — A big second-half performance from Notre Dame's defense powered the No. 16-ranked Irish football team to a convincing 36-7 win Saturday over visiting North Carolina State.

It's the fourth straight victory for Marcus Freeman's Irish following two season-opening losses to Miami, Fla. and Texas A&M. The loss drops unranked North Carolina State to 4-3 overall.

"It's obviously good to get up here in front of you after a victory. I'm proud of the way our guys prepared. It wasn't perfect, but I probably say that every time I'm up here in front of you," said Freeman during his post-game press conference afterwards.

"But we can enjoy this win while still knowing we didn't play our best game. There are plays and situations we have to clean up. We'll look at it and address it in practice and we get another opportunity in seven days to get back out there and compete."

Jeremiah Love's two-yard TD run with 9:49 to go in the opening period gave the Irish a 7-0 lead at the end of the stanza. The Irish' senior place-kicker Noah Burnette, a native of Raleigh, N.C., returned from injury to boot the first of three PATs.

The Irish came up empty on another scoring bid with 3:15 left in the period. Notre Dame freshman quarterback C.J. Carr was sacked on fourth-down and one at the Wolfpack six-yard line.

Carr addressed that situation following the game and how the Irish plan to iron out those kind of kinks.

"It's just more repetition in practice and continuing to be more detailed on redzone stuff. I thought they (North Carolina State) played it well. We hurt ourselves with some penalties, but we'll get it corrected and fixed," Carr said.

North Carolina State tied the contest at 7-7 on CJ Bailey's 45-yard TD toss to sophomore wide receiver Terrell Jackson with 13:58 left in the second quarter. Kanoah Vinesett added the PAT.

Burnette's 48-yard fi eld goal with 0:23 left in the half sent Notre Dame into the locker room with a 10-7 lead.

Sophomore K.K. Smith hauled in a 18-yard TD strike from Carr with 6:58 left in the third quarter, extending the Irish lead to 17-7 after Burnette's PAT.

A short time later, Carr delivered a 12-yard TD strike into the hands of senior Will Pauling with 2:46 left in the stanza and Burnette's PAT boosted Notre Dame's lead to 24-7 entering the fourth.

Burnette booted a 34-yard field goal with 12:48 left in the game that provided the Irish with a 27-7 advantage.

Notre Dame's defense pinned the Wolfpack's offensive unit inside its own fi ve-yard line to record a safety that made it 29-7 in favor of the Irish with 9:37 left.

Love's one-yard scoring plunge and PAT by freshman kicker Erik Schmidt with 5:13 left capped off a 10-play 82-yard Irish scoring drive.

Notre Dame's offense outgained North Carolina State 485-233, including a 342-182 edge in the air.

Carr completed 19-of-31 passes for 342 yards and two TDs. His top two targets on the day were senior tight end Eli Raridon with seven receptions worth 109 yards and Pauling caught four passes for 105 yards and one TD. Smith had three receptions for 59 yards and one TD.

"With all the work we put on our running game, it's great to see the rewards pay off with all of our tight ends. Eli, K.K. and Will are guys we can trust and go to consistently to make plays and they did that all day," Carr said.

Love ran 18 times for 86 of the 143 rushing yards that the Irish totaled in the contest.

The Irish defense came away with three interceptions on the afternoon, including two big swipes in the fourth quarter by sophomores safety Adon Schuler and Karson Hobbs in the secondary. Sophomore Kyngstonn Viliamu-Asa also had an interception.

Nick Shelton / For Leader Publications
The Notre Dame football team defeated NC State 36-7 Oct. 11.

Freshman safety Tae Johnson and Drayk Bowen paced Notre Dame's contain unit with seven tackles apiece, while Viliamu-Asa added six and Jaiden Ausberry and Boubacar Traore contributed four each. Traore also registered a pair of sacks. Schuler was named Irish Player of the Game.

"I was really proud of – listen, it was good in all three phases of the game. It was great to get Noah back. Our defense had two or three turnovers – I think three turnovers and a safety. We played lights out in the second half and a majority of the game," Freeman said.

"Offensively there's some bad, but there's some really good. We've got to clean up the bad and what the cause of the bad was and then we'll continue to get back to work and be better."

The Irish defense has now held opponents to just one score in eight of the last 10 quarters.

Bailey finished the day completing 17-of-30 passes for 186 yards with three interceptions. Anderson emerged as the Wolfpack's top receiver with three catches for 57 yards and one TD.

Notre Dame remains at home on Saturday to face USC at 7:30 p.m.

Eddies headed to D2 district soccer finals

By SCOTT HASSINGER
For Leader Publications

VICKSBURG — Brayden Fischer's game-winning goal with 2:38 left in the second half lifted the Edwardsburg boys' soccer team to a thrilling 2-1 Division 2 district semifinal win over Stevensville-Lakeshore Tuesday in Vicksburg.

No. 6-ranked Edwardsburg (15-1-1) advances to Thursday's district championship match at 7 p.m. against state-ranked St. Joseph (15-2-2).

St. Joseph beat Coldwater 3-2 in a shootout in Tuesday's second semifinal match.

"Brayden has had a great season for us. He's one of our leading goal scorers. He just has a nose for the goal with good pace on the ball. Tonight he just found one on his feet at the right time and he buried it," said Edwardsburg head coach Sean Jesse.

Fischer, a junior, also scored the Eddies' first goal of the match at the 36:52 mark of the first half off an assist from senior Mobias Stubblefield. That goal stood and sent the Eddies into intermission with a 1-0 advantage.

"Scoring that early in the match is always a challenge and sometimes it can hurt you. I thought Lakeshore was real gritty today and put us out of position alot of times. We wanted to actually play real position soccer and they were physical enough to get us away from that several times," Jesse said. "But after they (Lancers) scored that goal, our kids got a determined look on their faces. I think those last 20 minute, especially the final 10 our kids were really chomping at the bit trying to get another goal. In the playoffs I think it just comes down to who wants it the most. There's no doubt about it, this is a really difficult district with several ranked teams."

Scott Hassinger / For Leader Publications
Edwardsburg senior Maverick Gates (6) controls the ball and glides past a Stevensville-Lakeshore defender towards the goal.

Lakeshore (10-6-1) tied the score at 1-1 on Blake Fichtner's penalty-kick goal with 28:35 left in the match.

Knowing Lakeshore had a ton of talent in its center-midfield, Jesse challenged his midfielders to rise to the occasion and those players did exactly that.

"Landon Goetz, Riley Szalai and Alecksandr Rodriguez all al stepped up their game in that spot for us," Jesse said.

Out of the 12 goals Edwardsburg has given up this season, four of those have been on penalty kicks.

"Give credit to our back-line. They are strong and don't backdown from anyone. They all read the game well and play very good soccer," Jesse said.

Jesse also singled out the play of his starting senior center-middle back Austin Leak.

"Austin played a real strong matdh for us tonight as well," Jesse said.

Experience has been a critical factor in Edwardsburg's success this season.

"Last year we only had five seniors and we had several freshmen who were starters as well. Now those freshmen are sophomores and they are holding their own. Our senior class decided this year to set a culture through the hard work that we've put in since last winter," Jesse said.

Edwardsburg returns to the district championship match for the first time since the 2023 season. The Eddies recorded 15 shots on goal to eight attempts for the Lancers.

Edwardsburg had five corner kicks to one for Lakeshore. Sophomore goal keeper Law Gates had six saves for Edwardsburg.

Edwardsburg downs Vicksburg in four sets

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

VICKSBURG — The Edwardsburg volleyball team defeated Vicksburg in a tough four-set match on Thursday, winning 25-20, 25-27, 25-19, 25-23.

The victory keeps the Eddies perfect in the Wolverine Conference with a 6-0 record and improves their overall season record to 26-8.

Sarah Pippin led the offense with 26 kills and contributed 9 digs. Ella Laskowski added 16 kills, 7 digs, 2 blocks, and 1 ace. Mya Eberlein was a force at the net, tallying 6 kills and 4 blocks.

Rylie Rosenkrantz directed the offense with a match-high 55 assists. Rosenkrantz also chipped in 8 digs, 2 blocks, and 1 ace. Defensively, Sophie Kuntz led the back row with 14 digs and recorded 1 ace.

BUCHANAN

From page B1

The Bucks continued to battle, with senior Ben Bosse scoring his final goal in a Buchanan uniform with four minutes remaining to make it a 5-1 game.

Buchanan finished the season with a 12-7-2 record, earning back-to-back 10-plus win seasons for the first time in 15 years. Haines praised seniors Jacob Kuntz, Ben Bosse, Preston Payne, Caiden Troup, Hunter Harrington and Luis Novis for their efforts in rebuilding the soccer program.

"Their freshman and sophomore years, it was a little rough. It's a totally different program now," he said. ""We came in and we tried to just fl ip the script and they did a great job adjusting to a different type of play style. We're very proud of how they helped us establish that and helped us continue to push it forward."

While losing this senior class will be tough, the Bucks will return one of the conference's top players in Easton May as well as a large group of sophomores who will be juniors next year.

"Easton May is going to be a big big person for us," Haines said. "He had 21 goals and 13 assists to finish off his junior year. He's going to be a big key player for us next year. We've got a good group of nine sophomores as well. We're losing some heavy hitters, we're losing Preston Payne, Jacob Kuntz, Hunter Harrington – those three have been with the program all four years, so we're losing some guys in important spots, but we have enough guys coming up. We can still continue to push through."

FINISH

From page B1

St. Joseph defeated Edwardsburg 2-0 in the regular-season opener for both teams, which remains the Eddies' only loss.

"I don't think either team is close to the same as we were then," Jesse said. "We circled that, we knew St. Joe was incredibly good, we kind of figured we'd face them in the district championship. We wanted that revenge, we wanted that moment to get it back to show how good we really are, and we made it."

Edwardsburg was the district's top seed and had a first-round bye. St. Joseph defeated Vicksburg in its opener, then had to go all the way to a penalty shootout to beat Coldwater in Tuesday's semifinal.

"We looked tired, wore out," Brown said. "That's the difference of not getting the one seed and having to go through Coldwater to get here. We tried to recover (Wednesday), and it's just unfortunate. The guys gave everything they possibly could, but it was not our A-game. The guys grinded, I could not have asked for more out of them."

DOWAGIAC

From page B1

"When you drop two in a row like that, you've got to figure out what's going wrong and you have to fix it," Frey said. "I think that's going to be the goal tomorrow is to just sit down and say, 'hey, what's not working' and if that's personnel changes or whatever, we have to figure it out. We've got two games to figure that stuff out before the playoffs."

Davis knows there is more work to be done in order for the Chieftains to reclaim its status as a contender. The quest continues next week as the Chieftains travel to face undefeated Division 4 power Williamston next week.

"If I'm being honest, I'm not satisfied," Davis said. "We're in year five with me. I figured we'd be ahead of the game and we make too many mistakes at times. We have mental lapses and again, that's on me and I'm going to fix it. I am glad where we're going; the trajectory of the football team – I'm very happy with it. There are still things I'm disappointed in and the guys share the same idea that I share."

The Chieftains faced undefeated Williamston at Olivet University Friday night. Visit leaderpub.com for a recap of the game.

COACH

From page B1

quit. "It frustrated my dad. I got beat plenty my first year. My second and third years I went to an academy run by an awesome coach who coached my brothers and my dad. I immediately jumped up in success, even though I was 9 or 10. I was winning tournaments. It was awesome.

Courtney, who already knew Dowagiac's football field is named for Olympic wrestler Chris Taylor, said her team, which practices at 6 a.m., "looked good" at their first scrimmage.

"I have high expectations. Everybody deserves someone in their life who sees their potential and has high expectations for them. For us, nationals is laid out like an open tournament," she said.

Buchanan cross country wins title

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

BERRIEN SPRINGS — The Buchanan boys cross country team won its third consecutive Lakeland Conference title at the Lakeland Jamboree on Tuesday, Oct. 14, at the Berrien County Fairgrounds. The Buchanan girls team also had a strong showing, led by a first-place finish from Tala Carlin.

Buchanan dominated the boys race by securing six of the top seven individual spots and nine of the top 12. John Keser led the field, finishing first overall with a time of 16:11.34 and Jack Sherwood placed third with a time of 17:09.14. Liam McBeth (fourth, 17:12.83), Jacob Kuntz (fifth, 17:46.63), Bentley Molitor (sixth, 17:49.18) and Josiah Passig (seventh, 17:53.02) rounded out the top finishers for the Bucks.

Berrien Springs' Connor Beebe was the second-place finisher with a time of 16:35.91. Josue Morales-Per was the top finisher for Dowagiac, placing 13th with a time of 19:06.17.

The Buchanan girls were led by Tala Carlin, who finished first overall in the girls race with a time of 19:14.90. Alison Murray of Brandywine placed second with a time of 20:49.12 and Dowagiac's top finisher was Sadie Bonczynski, who placed fourth with a time of 21:09.09.

Other top finishers for the Buchanan girls included Alaina Nagel in sixth place (22:45.32) and Emily Hasse in 13th place (23:53.07). Brandywine, Allison Kline (23:46.62) and Sydney Olson (23:48.67) placed tenth and eleventh, respectively.

Niles routs Vicksburg

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

VICKSBURG — The Niles football team took care of business on the road at Vicksburg Friday night.

The Vikings improved to 7-0 with a 42-7 win over the Bulldogs. Niles' offense dominated the game, racking up 401 total yards compared to Vicksburg's 165, including a 342-41 edge in rushing yards.

The Vikings took control early in the fi rst quarter with three scores. Alex Anderson started the scoring with a one-yard touchdown plunge. Quarterback Will Turnbull followed with a 38-yard rushing touchdown run before connecting with Brenden Olsen on a 48-yard touchdown pass. In the second quarter, Max Rucker took a 44-yard fumble recovery into the end zone for a score and Anderson scored on a 9-yard run as the Vikings took a 35-0 lead into halftime.

The scoring continued in the third quarter with an 8-yard touchdown run by Elijah Norris. Vicksburg scored its lone touchdown in the third quarter on a 74-yard pass play. All Vikings touchdowns included successful extra-point kicks.

The Niles Vikings' ground attack was led by Norris, who tallied 21 carries for 98 yards and one touchdown. Anderson rushed for 82 yards and two touchdowns on nine carries and Ben Bruckner added 31 rushing yards.

Turnbull completed 2 of 2 passes for 59 yards and added 78 rushing yards and one touchdown on five carries. Olsen finished with 59 yards on two catches and one touchdown catch.

The Vikings' defense was strong across the board. RJ Fiedler recorded three solo tackles and two assists, leading the team with 3.5 tackles for a loss. Ward Cheney had three solo tackles and two assists. Bryce Young had three assists and one tackle for a loss.

Other defensive contributors included Brenden Olsen and Alex Anderson, who each had three passes defended. Max Rucker recovered a fumble and recorded one tackle for a loss. Brandon Hamilton also recorded a tackle for a loss.

The Vikings hosted Plainwell on Senior Night Friday at Niles High School. Visit leaderpub.com for a recap of the game.

Brandywine tennis team earns postseason honors

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

NILES CHARTER TOWNSHIP — The Brandywine boys tennis team earned several postseason honors for the Lakeland Conference.

The Bobcats had two players named to the All-Lakeland Conference First Team in Kyler Marshall at No. 3 singles and Malachi Gamble at No. 4 singles.

Three fl ights earned Honorable Mention (HM) recognition: Ryder Richard at No. 1 singles, the No. 2 doubles team of Hudson Aalfs and Bryce Hood, and the No. 3 doubles team of Jordan Bryant and Nolan Shaffer.

The team also earned Academic All-State Honors and Richard was named to the individual Academic All-State Team.

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NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate

CASE NO. and JUDGE
2025-239-DE
Judge Carol Bealor

Court address Court telephone no.
60296M, 60296 M-62 #6,
Cassopolis, MI 49031
(269) 445-4475

Estate of:
Margo Sue Shoemaker
Date of Birth: * April 21, 1953

TO ALL CREDITORS: **

NOTICE TO CREDITORS:
The decedent, Margo Sue Shoemaker, died October 10, 2024. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Joda Miller, Sr., personal representative, or to both the probate court at 60296M, 60296 M-62 #6, Cassopolis, MI 49031 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

Date October 6, 2025

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Telephone no.

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
CASS COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate

CASE NO.
2025-269-DE
JUDGE
Hon. Carol M. Bealor

Estate of:
Nicholas Kaplunow Jr
Date of birth: 09/29/1961

TO ALL CREDITORS: *

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Nicholas Kaplunow Jr, died 03/24/2025. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Julie Kaplunow, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 2048 Renegade Lane Milton FL, 32583 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

Date October 14, 2025

Robert J. Dutka P27761
Attorney name Bar no.
57635 N. Main St. P.O. Box 461
Address
Three Rivers, MI 49093
City, state, zip
269-273-8402
Telephone

Julie Kaplunow
Personal representative
2048 Renegade Lane
Address
Milton, FL 32583
City, state, zip
850-982-9466
Telephone

Township of Howard Cass County, Michigan

PUBLIC NOTICE
Dominion Voting Machine Public Accuracy Testing for Precincts 1and 2 **November 4, 2025, Special Election** will be held Tuesday, Oct 21, 2025, at 11:00 a.m. at the Township Business Office 1345 Barron Lake Road Public Invited

0900 LEGALS

STATE OF MICHIGAN
IN THE 2nd JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
FOR THE COUNTY OF BERRIEN
CIVIL DIVISION

KATHY KESSINGER
Plaintiff,
v.
GREENTREE ACCEPTANCE CO, INC.
Defendant.

FILE NO. 2023-0210-CH
HON. CHARLES T. LASATA

HEIDI A. DUNCAN (P76168)
DUNCAN & ASSOCIATES, PLLC
Attorney for Plaintiff
107 Pennsylvania Ave.
Dowagiac, MI 49047
(269) 782-9895

GREENTREE ACCEPTANCE CO, INC. and/or Assignee or Agent
Self-Represented Defendant
2505 East Paris SE Ste 200
Grand Rapids, MI 49546

NOTICE OF HEARING

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a hearing on Defendant's Motion for the Entry of Default Order Declaring Ownership of Manufactured/Mobile Home is scheduled to be heard in this matter on **Monday, November 3, 2025, at 3:30 p.m.** or as soon thereafter as may be heard before the Honorable Charles T. LaSata with all attorneys and parties participating in person at the Berrien County Courthouse, 811 Port St., Third Floor, Room 316, St. Joseph, MI 49085.

Dated: September 9, 2025

Heidi A. Duncan (P76168)
Attorney for Plaintiff

PUBLIC NOTICE
Jefferson Township Board of Trustees Regular Meeting Synopsis, October 9, 2025
Supervisor Hass called the October 9, 2025, meeting to order at 6:30 PM with board members present: Brunner, Bundle, Gillam, Hass, Mendenhall.
REGULAR MEETING BOARD ACTION
- September 11, 2025, meeting minutes were approved.
- Treasurer's Report was given.
- Payment of bills was authorized.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Brunner, Clerk

NOTICE OF ELECTION
Howard Township, Cass County

TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF HOWARD TOWNSHIP:
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Special Election will be held on Tuesday, November 4, 2025.
THE POLLS OF SAID ELECTION WILL OPEN AT 7 O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING AND CLOSE AT 8 O'CLOCK IN THE EVENING ON NOVEMBER 4,2025.

On the ballot:
County of Cass Medical Care Facility Millage Renewal .4881mills for 10 years.

Full text of the ballot proposition may be obtained at the Cass County Clerk's Office, 120 N. Broadway, Cassopolis MI 49031; Telephone (269) 445-4464.
Polling location is handicap accessible, and persons with special needs, as defined in the Americans with Disabilities Act, shall be supplied with Braille or audio instructions upon request.
Absentee ballots can be obtained by contacting Sheri Wozniak, Howard Township Clerk, by calling 269-684-0072.

ELECTORS WILL BE VOTING IN THEIR TOWNSHIP AT THEIR ASSIGNED PRECINCT
Precinct #1 - Howard Township Business Office-1345 Barron Lake Road, Niles, Michigan

Precinct #2-Howard Fire Station-2690 Lake Shore Drive, Niles, Michigan

Sheri Wozniak, Howard Township Clerk Published 10/18/25

0900 LEGALS

ONTWA TOWNSHIP NOTICE OF PUBLIC ACCURACY TEST OF VOTING EQUIPMENT
The purpose of this testing is to ascertain that the equipment will correctly tabulate the votes cast in the November 4, 2025, General Election.
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that The Test will be held on Thursday, October 23, 2025, at 10:00 AM The Test will be conducted at: Ontwa Township Hall 26225 US 12 Edwardsburg, MI 49112 THE PUBLIC IS INVITED TO ATTEND.
Tina VanBelle, Ontwa Twp Clerk

PUBLIC HEARING November 5, 2025, 6:00 pm
CASS COUNTY, MICHIGAN
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
Please take notice that the Ontwa Township Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, November 5, 2025, at 6:00 pm., at the Ontwa Township Hall located at 26225 US 12, Edwardsburg, MI 49112, to consider a proposed conditional rezoning request.

The proposed rezoning is summarized as follows:

Singh Brothers Petroleum, INC. has applied to rezone approximately 5.03 acres of land located at 71287 M62 Parcel No. 14-090-020-014-00 from the AR Agricultural-Residential District to the C-2 Commercial District.
Copies of the application, the zoning ordinance, and the zoning map are available for public viewing during regular business hours at the Township Hall, 26225 US 12, Edwardsburg, MI 49112, or on the Township website: www.ontwatwp.org.
Written comments will be received from any interested people by the Ontwa Township Clerk at the Ontwa Township Hall during regular business hours and may be further received by the Planning Commission during the public hearing. Oral comments will be taken during the hearing.
If you are planning to attend this hearing and are handicapped requiring any special assistance, please notify the Township Clerk by calling (269) 663-2347 as soon as possible.

Tina VanBelle, Ontwa Twp Clerk

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Battle Creek, MI 49037
(269) 963-5588

101 Robinson St.
Dowagiac, MI 49047
(269) 782-5134

gunbroker@uslumbercompany.com

WHITE SPACE SELLS

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS HEARING WAYNE TOWNSHIP CASS COUNTY, MICHIGAN

TO THE RESIDENTS AND PROPERTY OWNERS OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WAYNE, CASS COUNTY, MICHIGAN AND ALL OTHER INTERESTED PERSONS:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Wayne Township Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a Public Hearing on Thursday, October 30, 2025 at 6:30 P.M. in the Wayne Township Hall located at 53950-7423 Glenwood Road to consider the appeal(s) of Tim O'Brien regarding parcel #14-150-330-020-001 located at 26072 Flanders St. for a variance to allow him to have two accessory buildings with a combined size of 1,524 sq. ft. with 8 ft. sidewalls whereas the Zoning Ordinance allows an accessory building(s) 720 sq. ft. in size with 8 ft. sidewalls.
PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that written comments concerning the above matters may be mailed to the Wayne Township Clerk, Attention Zoning Board of Appeals, Dowagiac, MI 49047-7423, at any time prior to this public hearing and may further be submitted to the Zoning Board of Appeals at said public hearing.
All interested persons are invited to be present at the aforesaid time and place to be heard with respect to this/these matter(s).
This notice is served and posted in compliance with Public Act 267 of 1976, as amended; the Open Meetings Act; MCLA 41.72a(2)(3); the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Wayne Township Zoning Ordinance.
Wayne Township will provide necessary, reasonable auxiliary aids and services at the meeting/hearing to individuals with disabilities, upon reasonable notice to the Township Clerk. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Township in writing at: Kurt Reich, Wayne Township Clerk, 53950 Glenwood Rd., Dowagiac, MI 49047-7423, by phone at 269-782-7017 or by e-mail at waynetownshipclerk@gmail.com.

Kurt Reich, Clerk for Wayne Township Published: October 18, 2025

NOTICE OF ELECTION TO BE HELD ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2025 TOWNSHIP OF SILVER CREEK
TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF THE TOWNSHIP OF SILVER CREEK:
THERE IS NO EARLY VOTING IN CASS COUNTY FOR THE NOVEMBER 4, 2025, ELECTION
CLERK HOURS ARE:
Tuesdays & Thursdays 9:00 AM TO 3:00 PM

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT A **SPECIAL** ELECTION WILL BE HELD IN THE TOWNSHIP OF SILVER CREEK, COUNTY OF CASS, ON **TUESDAY NOVEMBER 4, 2025.**
THE POLLS WILL OPEN AT 7:00 AM AND CLOSE AT 8:00 PM.
LOCATION:
SILVER CREEK TOWNSHIP HALL
32764 DIXON STREET, DOWAGIAC, MI 49047

Special Election for the purpose of voting on the following proposals:
County: Medical Care Facility Millage Renewal Proposal
MEDICAL CARE FACILITY
County of Cass Medical Care Facility Millage Renewal .4881mills for 10 years.
Full text of the ballot proposition may be obtained at the Cass County Clerk's Office, 120 N. Broadway, Cassopolis, MI 4903; Telephone (269) 445-4464
DOWAGIAC SCHOOLS
Dowagiac Union School District Sinking Fund Proposal .5mills for 10 years.
Full Text of the ballot proposition may be obtained at the administrative offices of Dowagiac Union School District, 243 S. Front Street, Dowagiac, MI 49047 Telephone (269) 782-4400
EAU CLAIRE SCHOOLS
GENERAL OBLIGATION UNLIMITED TAX BOND PROPOSAL
FOR BUILDING AND SITES PIRPOSES IN THE AMOUNT OF NOT TO EXCEED $8,315,000
Full text of the ballot proposition may be obtained at the administrative offices of Eau Claire Public Schools, 6190 West Main Street, Eau Claire, Michigan 49111-9327, telephone: (269) 461-6947.
Persons with special needs, as defined in the Americans with Disabilities Act, should contact the Township Clerk Absentee ballots may be obtained from the Clerk.
FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT:
https://silvercreektwpmi.gov/election-information/
JESSICA HONN, SILVER CREEK TOWNSHIP CLERK

DO YOU RUN YOUR OWN BUSINESS?
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White Space Sells

Economy Storage, 2206 Yankee Street, Niles, MI 49120. Auction Saturday October 25, 2025, at 10:00 a.m.

Unit # Name

10 Charmin Kelly
28 Emalee Anderson
56 Nathan Thomas
57 Caleb Dubik
67 Jerome Jankowiak
77 Stoney Tittle
82 Erica Pitone
116 Melissa Kaeding
119 Kyle Tracey
148 Gloster Johnson
151 Christopher Albright
152 Lorene Maynard
164 Brady Hattenback
168 Gene Robertson
173 George Tovey III
177 Larry Wegrecki
183 Cindy Fisher
184/66 Mary Anderson
191 Alan Smith
192 Patricia Yoder
196 Colton Wedgworth
205 Nancy Bombrys
228/367 Shawnette Booker
273 Tony Pompey
278 Chelsie Carlyle
284 Kathleen Peterson
330 Sheila Kollars
331 Valerie Outlaw
342 Terrence Moss
346 DaMonica Williams
351 Lyman Bybie
356 Chase Molica
362 Chris Williams
386 Shannon Lego
389 Parnell Jenkins
399 Les Hart
410/534 Rebecca Coleman
429 Aaron Haynes
432 Mare Williams
438 Adrianna Affriso
442 Dawn Hojara
451 Jean Fitch
452 Tyler Mahar
518 Dawn Lintz
529 Shannon Brown
530 Justin Landis
541 Nicole Hurt
605 Michael Lewark
606 Zoltan Kovach
638 Britney Stanczyk
665 Rodney Prescott
677/567 Julie Potate

Niles U-Stor-It, 1314 E. Main Street, Niles, MI 49120. Auction Saturday October 25, 2025, at 10:30 a.m.

23 Miranda Wendzel **57** Nathan Haynes **54** Cynthia Swisher

J & J Storage, 2220 S. 13th Street and 2627 S. 11th Street, Niles, MI 49120. Auction Saturday October 25, 2025, at 11:00 a.m.

57 James Colburn
69 Leanne Matheson
97 Blake King
233A Donna Lawton
311A Michael Tapia
188 Michael Fedore
230 Felisha Liberty
238/466 James Diss
250 Robert Clayton/Jessica Vissik
263 Tamara Holmes
292 The Woodshed Crafts
346 Joe Jones
373 Rhonda Sue Outlaw
377 Christy Stevens
426 James Schilling Jr.
481 Natosha Libertowski
483 Michael Donoho

Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.

Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Cass County, starting promptly at 10:00 AM on NOVEMBER 12, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information.

Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by Anthony L. May, a man, to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for United Federal Credit Union, Mortgagee, dated December 13, 2021, and recorded December 27, 2021, in Liber 1209, Page 2006 Cass County Records, Michigan. Said mortgage is now held by Nationstar Mortgage LLC, by assignment. There is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of Two Hundred One Thousand Four Hundred Forty-Six and 13/100 Dollars ($201,446.13).

Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public venue at the place of holding the circuit court within Cass County, Michigan at 10:00 AM on NOVEMBER 12, 2025.

Said premises are located in the Township of HOWARD, Cass County Michigan, and are described as:
Lot(s) 21 of YANKEE HEIGHTS according to the plat thereof recorded in Liber 1 of Plats, Page 153 of Cass County Records.
2560 Gilbert Avenue, Niles, Michigan 49120

The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA §600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale.

If the property is sold at foreclosure sale, pursuant to MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damage to the property during the redemption period.
Dated: October 11, 2025
File No. 25-006597
Firm Name: Orlans Law Group PLLC
Firm Address: 1650 West Big Beaver Road, Troy MI 48084
Firm Phone Number: (248) 502.1400
(10-11)(11-01)

ORDINANCE NO. 25-1

An Ordinance granting a revocable franchise to Indiana Michigan Power Company, its successors and assigns, for the right to acquire, construct, maintain, and operate in the streets, thoroughfares, alleys, bridges, and public places of the Township of Penn, Cass County, State of Michigan, and its successors, lines and appurtenant equipment for the transmission and distribution of electric energy to the Charter Township of Penn, and the inhabitants thereof, and for the transmission and distribution of the same within, through, or across said Township of Penn, Cass County, State of Michigan.

The Township of Penn, Cass County, State of Michigan, ordains:

SECTION I.
Indiana Michigan Power Company, its successors and assigns (hereinafter called "Grantee") is hereby granted the right, privilege, franchise, and authority to acquire, construct, maintain, and operate in, above, under, across, and along the streets, thoroughfares, alleys, bridges, and public places (as the same now exist or may hereafter be laid out) of the Township of Penn, Cass County, State of Michigan, lines for the transmission and distribution of electric energy, either by means of overhead or underground conductors, with all the necessary or desirable appurtenant equipment (the "Facilities"), to render public utility service in said Township and to the inhabitants thereof by supplying electric energy to said Township and the inhabitants thereof, and persons or corporations beyond the limits thereof for all purposes for which electric energy is now or may hereafter be used, and the transmission and distribution of the same within, through, or across said Township of Penn, State of Michigan, subject to such reasonable regulation of the placement and operation of the Facilities as the Township Board shall prescribe from time to time and as is permitted under applicable state law.

SECTION II.
Said Facilities shall be constructed in a manner that shall not unreasonably interfere with the traveling public in its use of the streets, thoroughfares, alleys, bridges, and public places.

SECTION III.
The rights, privileges, and franchise hereby granted shall be in force and effect for a period of thirty (30) years from the date of the passage of this Ordinance, but revocable at the will of the Township Board unless approved by vote of the electors.

The rights, privileges, and franchise hereby granted shall not be construed to be exclusive and the Board of the Township of Penn hereby reserves the power to grant similar rights, privileges, and franchises to any other person or persons, firm or firms, corporation or corporations.

SECTION IV.
Said Grantee shall save the Township harmless from any and all liability arising in any way from Grantee's negligence in the erection, maintenance, or operation of said Facilities, except to the extent arising out of the Township's negligence or willful misconduct.

SECTION V.
Whenever said Grantee shall begin the erection or installation of any lines or equipment, it shall promptly and diligently prosecute the work to completion and leave the streets, thoroughfares, alleys, bridges, and public places where such work is done in as good condition of repair as before such work was commenced.

SECTION VI.
Wherever in this Ordinance, reference is made to the Township or the Grantee, it shall be deemed to include the respective successors or assigns of either; and all rights, privileges, franchises, and obligations herein contained by or on behalf of said Township, or by or on behalf of said Grantee, shall be binding upon, and inure to the benefit of the respective successors or assigns of said Township, or of said Grantee, whether so expressed or not.

SECTION VII.
This Ordinance shall be accepted by the Grantee within sixty (60) days from the date of the passage of same.

SECTION VIII.
This franchise shall take effect after its adoption, acceptance and publication as required by law dated this **8th day of September 2025** in the Township of Penn, County of Cass, State of Michigan.

I hereby attest that the foregoing Ordinance was adopted by the Township of Penn, County of Cass, State of Michigan, at a regular meeting held on September 8, 2025..

Rhonda Barnett, Clerk

STATE OF MICHIGAN) PROBATE COURT) COUNTY OF BERRIEN

CLAIMS NOTICE

PAUL BECK HOLMER REVOCABLE TRUST DATED OCTOBER 14, 2024

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS including creditors whose address(es) are unknown and whose interest in the matter may be barred or affected by the following:

The decedent, Paul Beck Holmer, whose last known address was 55432 Colby Street, Watervliet, Michigan, has died. An instrument dated October 14, 2024, was executed by Paul Beck Holmer as the Trust for the distribution of his estate at his death. Creditors of the deceased are notified that all claims against the Trust will be forever barred unless presented to the Trustee, John E. Nametz, Trustee of Paul Beck Holmer Revocable Trust, Post Office Box 1310, Niles, Michigan 49120, within four (4) months of the date of publication of this notice.

No court supervision will be made regarding the administration of this Trust unless an interested person petitions the Berrien County Probate Court, 811 Port Street, Saint Joseph, Michigan within four (4) months of the date of the publication of this notice.

Notice is further given that the Trust assets will thereafter be assigned and distributed to the persons entitled to it.

The attorney for the Trustee is Robert L. Landgraf, Jr. (P23000), Post Office Box 1310, Niles, Michigan 49120. Tele: 269-683-8300

JOHN E. NAMETZ
Trustee, Paul Beck Holmer Revocable Trust
dated October 14, 2024
Post Office Box 1310, Niles, Michigan 49120

Date October 18, 2025

Robert L. Landgraf, Jr.
Attorney
Post Office Box 1310
Niles, Michigan 49120-1310
(269) 683 - 8300

JOHN E. NAMETZ
Trustee, Paul Beck Holmer Revocable Trust
dated October 14, 2024
c/o PO Box 1310
Niles, Michigan 49120

CALVIN TOWNSHIP CASS COUNTY, MICHIGAN
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

TO: THE RESIDENTS AND PROPERTY OWNERS OF CALVIN TOWNSHIP, CASS COUNTY, MICHIGAN AND ALL OTHER INTERESTED PERSONS.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Calvin Township Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on, **November 6, 2025**, commencing at 6:00 P.M. at the Calvin Township Hall, 18693 Mt. Zion Rd Cassopolis, Mi. 49031 to consider the following:

1. The Calvin Township Planning Commission will consider the rezoning of those parcels that are located in Section 12 of Calvin Township Zoning Ordinance that are currently A-1 Agricultural Zoning District to the A-2 Agricultural Zoning District.

2. The Calvin Township Planning Commission will hear comments from the public and consider a recommendation as it relates to the Calvin Township Master Plan.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the Calvin Township Planning Commission will address any business or agenda items presented.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that copies of the Township Zoning Ordinance will be available at the hearing or may be viewed or purchased prior to the hearing by contacting the Township Clerk, Michelle Anderson at 269-476-2620, or the Township Zoning Administrator, Douglas Kuhlman at 269-651-3130.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the Calvin Township Planning Commission reserves the right to recommend approval, approval with conditions, or denial of the proposed request.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that public comment regarding any business that will be addressed at the meeting will be received in writing at the address below; may be presented to the Planning Commission at the meeting; or may be directed to the Planning Commission care of the Zoning Administrator Douglas Kuhlman by contacting him at 269-651-3130.Written comments concerning the above matter may be submitted to the Calvin Township Clerk at any time prior to the public hearing and may further be submitted to the Zoning Administrator at the public hearing.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE Calvin Township will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services at the hearing to individuals with disabilities, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered, upon a seventy-two (72) hours advanced notice to the Township Clerk of the need for the same.

Calvin Township
Douglas M. Kuhlman, Zoning Administrator
65656 Burg Rd, Sturgis, MI. 49091

INVITATION TO BID

PROJECT NAME: Niles High School Parking Lot & Gateway
PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

BASE BID
Replacement of existing asphalt paving & subbase, existing small section of underground stormwater piping, existing concrete sidewalks & curbs, existing chain link fencing, existing ada parking signage, and existing parking lot light poles. Removal of existing parking lot concrete islands and buried fence posts. New concrete entry plaza for the gateway entrance with stamped concrete school logo, new painted steel gateway structure with concrete foundation piers, lighting, power & signage, new decorative aluminum fencing and entry gates, new black vinyl coated chain link fencing & gates, new light poles along the sidewalk east of the parking lot, new parking layout to maximize number of spots, and new parking lot striping for pedestrian traffic.

ALTERNATE 1 (DEDUCT)
In lieu of the base bid only provides the concrete foundations for the new steel gateway structure. Provide protection for anchor bolts sticking out of foundations until future gateway installation.

ALTERNATE 2 (DEDUCT)
In lieu of the fencing & gates around the tennis courts in the base bid do not provide 140 lf of fencing and associated gates.

ALTERNATE 3 (DEDUCT)
In lieu of the decorative aluminum fencing & entry gates in the base bid provide black vinyl coated chain link fencing & entry gates.

ALTERNATE 4 (DEDUCT)
In lieu of the base bid 15' sidewalk lights along the east side of the parking lot do not provide any sidewalk lights or infrastructure.

ALTERNATE 5 (DEDUCT)
In lieu of the base bid stamped concrete logo in the entry plaza do not provide custom stamping and provide standard concrete.

OWNER Niles Community School
One Tyler Street
Niles, MI 49120
(Administrative Offices)

ARCHITECT CARMI Design Group
210 E. Main Street, Ste. 200
P.O. Box 487
Niles, MI 49120
Phone: 269-663-5073

BID DATE:
Bids will be received at the district's Administrative Offices until **1:00 PM (local time), Wednesday, November 5th, 2025.**

Bids will be publicly opened at the Administrative Offices and read aloud at this time. Bids received after this time will not be considered and will be returned to the bidder unopened.

Bids shall be properly and completely executed on the Bid Proposal Form included within the Project Manual and submitted in duplicate. Bids shall be clearly marked as **"Niles High School Parking Lot & Gateway"** on the front of the submitted envelope.

PRE-BID MEETING:
A **mandatory** Pre-Bid Meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 22nd, 2025 at 3:00 PM (local time) at the High School parking lot east of the school by door #34. 1441 Eagle Street, Niles, MI 49120.

DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY AND USE:
Bid Documents may be viewed at the following **Plan Rooms on or after Monday, October 13th, 2025.**

Builders Exchange of Kalamazoo	www.builder-exchange.com
Builders Exchange of Lansing	www.bxlansing.com
Builders Exchange of Michigan	www.grbx.com
Construction Association of Michigan	www.BuildwithCAM.com
ConstructConnect	www.constructconnect.com
Dodge Construction Network	www.construction.com
MACIAF (South Bend, IN)	www.constructionsite.org

Bidding documents are available electronically at no charge, via email. Please email your request to CARMI Design Group, **cadmin@carmi.biz.**

BONDS:
A five percent (5%) Bid Bond shall accompany bids over $50,000.00. The successful bidder will be required to provide a Performance Bond, Labor and Material Bonds, and certificates of Liability and Worker's Compensation Insurance.

OTHER CONDITIONS AND INFORMATION:
1. Each bid shall be accompanied by a sworn and notarized statement disclosing any familial relationship that exists between the owner or any employee of the bidder and any member of the Niles Community Schools board of education or the superintendent of the school district.
2. No bidder may withdraw their bid for a period of Thirty (30) calendar days after the date set for bid opening.
3. Public Act 517 of 2012 (effective December 31, 2012) enacted the "Iran Economic Sanctions Act", which prevents "Iran linked businesses" from bidding on a school district or ISD's request for proposals ("RFP"). This law requires that persons submitting bids certify that they are not an "Iran linked business," which is defined as either:
- **a)** A person engaging in investment activities in the energy sector of Iran, including a person that provides oil or liquefied natural gas tankers or products used to construct or maintain pipelines used to transport oil or liquefied natural gas for the energy sector of Iran; or
- **b)** A financial institution that extends credit to another person, if that person will use the credit to engage in investment activities in the energy sector of Iran.

4. This is a prevailing wage project. The awarded contractor will be required to pay not less than the current published rates.
5. Niles Community Schools reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any defects or irregularities in bids, and to accept any bid which is deemed most advantageous to the public interest.

NOTICE OF ELECTION ONTWA TOWNSHIP
November 4, 2025, ELECTION

TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF ONTWA TOWNSHIP:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a General Election will be held on Tuesday, November 4, 2025.

THE POLLS OF SAID ELECTION WILL OPEN AT 7:00 AM AND CLOSE AT 8:00 PM ON November 4, 2025.

Proposals on the ballot include:

MEDICAL CARE FACILITY
County of Cass Medical Care Facility Millage Renewal .4881mills for 10 years.

Full text of the ballot proposition may be obtained at the Cass County Clerk's Office, 120 N. Broadway, Cassopolis MI 49031; Telephone (269) 445-4464.

VILLAGE OF EDWARDSBURG
Shall there be a general revision of the Charter of the Village of Edwardsburg?

Polling locations are handicap accessible, and persons with special needs, as defined in the Americans with Disabilities Act, shall be supplied with Braille or audio instructions upon request.
Absentee ballots can be obtained by contacting:
Ontwa Township Clerk, Tina VanBelle, 269-663-2347

ELECTORS WILL VOTE IN THEIR TOWNSHIP
Ontwa Township Hall 26225 US 12 Edwardsburg, MI 49112

NOTICE OF DAYS AND HOURS FOR VOTER REGISTRATION
The Ontwa Township Clerks Office will be open Monday through Friday 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM and Open Saturday November 1st from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM for voter registration. The township office is located at 26225 US 12 Edwardsburg, MI 49112.

ONTWA TOWNSHIP CASS COUNTY, MICHIGAN NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Please take notice that the Ontwa Township Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on November 5, 2025, at 6:00 pm., at the Ontwa Township Hall located at 26225 US 12, Edwardsburg, MI 49112, to receive public comments on a proposed new Zoning Ordinance for Ontwa Township to replace the existing Zoning Ordinance that became effective on December 8, 1980, and all amendments thereto, pursuant to the Zoning Enabling Act, Public Act 110 of 2006, as amended.

A summary of the proposed new Zoning Ordinance is as follows:

Article 1: Title, Purpose, Scope, and Legal Basis
This Article discusses the title and purposes of the proposed new Zoning Ordinance. The new ordinance shall be known as the "Ontwa Township Zoning Ordinance." There are multiple purposes supporting the new Zoning Ordinance and Zoning Map.

Article 2: Definitions
This Article contains the definitions of various words, phrases, and clauses for purposes of the Zoning Ordinance.

Article 3: General Provisions
This Article contains general regulations that apply to a variety of different uses, activities, buildings and structure in some or all zoning districts, including but not limited to effect is zoning, outstanding applications for building permits; area frontage, and use conditions; height exceptions, essential services, principal uses, clear vision corners, fences and walls, enforcement of private deed restrictions, drainage, sewage disposal and water supply, basement and garage dwellings, keeping of animals, manufactured homes, home occupations, control of heat, glare, fumes, dust, noise, vibration, and odors; accessory buildings, private swimming pools, truck parking and recreational vehicle storage, garage and yard sales, residential dwellings, private communication antennas, unclassified uses, lot access, lot line adjustments or land divisions, wireless communication facilities, anti-funneling/anti-keyholing, wind energy systems, parks, boat launches, and boat washing facilities, small-scale solar energy systems, and man-made ponds.

Article 4: Mapped Districts
Among other matters, this Article indicates that the Zoning Map is an integral part of the Zoning Ordinance, establishes various zoning districts, sets rules regarding areas not within a district, and uses not designated.

Article 5: Agricultural/Residential District "AR"
This Article sets forth a description and purposes, a list of uses permitted by right, special land uses, and dimensional requirements for properties in the AR Zoning District.

Article 6: Residential District "R-1A"
This Article sets forth a description and purposes, a list of uses permitted by right, special land uses, and dimensional requirements for properties in the R-1A Zoning District.

Article 7: Residential District "R-1"
This Article sets forth a description and purposes, a list of uses permitted by right, special Article uses, and dimensional requirements for properties in the R-1 Zoning District.

Article 8: Lake Residential District "L-R"
This Article sets forth a description and purposes, a list of uses permitted by right, special land uses, and dimensional requirements for properties in the L-R Zoning District.

Article 9: Residential District "R-2"
This Article sets forth a description and purposes, a list of uses permitted by right, special land uses, and dimensional requirements for properties in the R-2 Zoning District.

Article 10: Manufactured Home Park District "M-H"
This Article sets forth a description and purposes, a list of uses permitted by right, special land uses, and additional requirements for properties in the M-H Zoning District.

Article 11: Multi-family Residential District "MFR"
This Article sets forth a description and purposes, a list of uses permitted by right, special land uses, dimensional standards, and additional requirements for properties in the MFR Zoning District.

Article 12: Commercial/Service District "C-1"
This Article sets forth a description and purposes, a list of uses permitted by right, special land uses, and dimensional standards for properties in the C-1 Zoning District.

Article 13: General Commercial District "C-2"
This Article sets forth a description and purposes, a list of uses permitted by right, special land uses, dimensional standards, and additional standards for properties in the C-2 Zoning District.

Article 14: Light Industrial "I-1"
This Article sets forth a description and purposes, a list of uses permitted by right, special land uses, dimensional standards, general performance standards, and environmental performance regulations for properties in the I-1 Zoning District.

Article 15: Heavy Industrial District "I-2"
This Article sets forth a description and purposes, a list of uses permitted by right, special land uses, dimensional standards, and additional standards for properties in the I-2 Zoning District.

Article 16: Waterfront Overlay District
This Article sets forth a purpose and intent statement, applicability criteria, wetland regulations, permitted and special land uses, additional regulations, and site plan review standards for properties within the Waterfront Overlay District.

Article 17: Planned Unit Developments (PUD)
This Article contains the regulations, specifications, application procedures, and other matters regarding the Planned Unit Development (PUD) Zoning District.

Article 18: Site Plan Review
This Article governs, regulates, and covers site plans, including, but not limited to, when site plan review and approval are required, site plan review and approval procedures, standards for site plan approval, conformity to approved site plans, changes to approved site plans, appeals, and performance guarantees on site plans.

Article 19: Site Development Requirements
This Article contains specific regulations and requirements for parking and loading, landscaping, and signs.

Article 20: Special Land Uses
This Article contains standards and regulations for the review of applications for special land use approval. It also contains standards for specific land uses, including but not limited to adult businesses, adult foster care group homes, agri-tourism establishments, auto, truck, boat and RV sales; car washes, child care group homes, education or health related institutions, gas stations, home based businesses, kennels, landfills, mining operations, outdoor cafes, drive-through uses, places of public assembly, outdoor or open air businesses, outdoor recreation uses, utility scale solar energy systems, veterinary clinics, and wireless communication facilities.

Article 21: Nonconformities
This Article sets forth a purpose and intent statement, general provisions for nonconformities, lists nonconforming uses, buildings, structures, lots of record, and requirements for nonconforming site improvements.

Article 22: Administration and Enforcement
This Article discusses and regulates many matters regarding the general administration and enforcement of the new Zoning Ordinance, as well as the penalties for violation. The topics covered by this Article include, but are not limited to, the zoning administrator, certificates of occupancy and zoning compliance, public hearing and notice requirements, zoning amendments, conditional rezoning, fees and escrow accounts, performance guarantees, zoning board of appeals, planning commission, property surveys, penalties, administrative liability, and severability.

Copies of the zoning ordinance are available for public viewing during regular business hours at the Township Hall, 26225 US 12, Edwardsburg, MI 49112, or on the Township website: www.ontwatwp.org.

Written comments will be received from any interested persons by the Ontwa Township Clerk at the Ontwa Township Hall during regular business hours and may be further received by the Planning Commission during the public hearing. Oral comments will be taken during the hearing.

If you are planning to attend this hearing and are handicapped, requiring any special assistance, please notify the Township Clerk by calling (269) 663-2347 as soon as possible.

Tina VanBelle, Ontwa Township Clerk

Looking for supplemental income?

Leader Publications is looking for
home delivery route carriers
in the Dowagiac and Niles areas.
Please call 269-429-1877 for more information.

Land Auction

BERRIEN COUNTY, MI

MONDAY, OCTOBER 26 • 6PM

100.5± Acres

INSPECTION DATES:
Sunday, October 12th 1-3PM
Monday, October 27th 1-3PM

Offered in 11 Tracts or Any Combinations

PROPERTY LOCATION: *West of Niles, MI on US 12 to Baker Town, go north on Bakertown Rd. becomes Madron Lake Rd. to Broceus School Rd. Property is between Broceus School Rd. and Madron Lake Rd.*
AUCTION LOCATION: Redbud City Center, 131 S. Oak St. Buchanan, MI 49107.

• 46.78 USDA Tillable • Row Crop Land
• Residential • Recreational & Hunting Paradise
• 14 miles from South Bend Int. Airport
• ½ mile from NW side of Buchanan
LIVE AND ONLINE - JOIN US AND BID AT YOUR PRICE!

OWNERS: Richard E. Clark Living Trust & George M. Kramer and Lesley Anne Kramer Living Trust • **SALE MANAGERS:** Ed Boyer 574-215-7653 • Ted Boyer 574-215-8100 • *3% Buyer's Premium*

CALL FOR BROCHURE OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE
SCHRADER Real Estate and Auction Company, Inc. 6505261770 • 6501225192
800-451-2709
SchraderAuction.com

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING MILTON TOWNSHIP, CASS COUNTY, MI 32097 Bertrand St Niles, MI 49120

To: The residents and property owners of Milton Township, Cass County Michigan and any other interested parties.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE the Planning Commission of Milton Township, Cass County Michigan will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, November 4, 2025, commencing at 7:00 p.m., at the Milton Township Hall, 32097 Bertrand St, Niles MI 49120.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE the Planning Commission is considering an amendment to Milton Township Zoning Ordinance, as follows:

Section 1. Amendment of Section 19.03(2). Section 19.03(2) of the Milton Township Zoning Ordinance is amended to read in its entirety as follows:

2. Private Roads are permitted only in the SFR, Single-Family Residential; MDR/MFR, Medium Density & Multi-Family Residential; and Planning Unit Development (PUD) Districts as a special land use.

Section 2. Amendment of Section 19.06. Section 19.06 of the Milton Township Zoning Ordinance is amended to include a new subsection (3), which reads in its entirety as follows:

3. Discretionary Review Standards for Private Roads. In addition to the standards of this Chapter and the general Special Land Use standards of Section 15.03(1)(a-f), The Planning Commission shall also ensure that a proposed private road meets the following additional standards:

a. The proposed private road and the subsequent lot(s) that it serves or will serve shall be situated in an area of the Township such that it will not impede the conduct of existing agricultural activities.

b. The proposed private road shall be generally located in an area of the Township with compatible land uses, residential densities, and shall be designed to protect, to the greatest degree practicable, the rural and agricultural character of the Township.

c. The proposed private road and subsequent lot(s) that it serves or will serve shall be consistent with the Milton Township Master Plan's recommendations and policies related to the preservation of woodlands, open spaces, or farmland, especially in areas with visible sightlines.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that written comments will be taken from any interested persons concerning the foregoing proposed amendment, at the Milton Township Hall, at the address set forth above, at any time during regular business hours up to 4:00 o'clock p.m. on the date of said hearing and will further be received by the Planning Commission at the time of said hearing.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that all persons interested in the foregoing are invited to be present at the aforesaid Public Hearing time and place to participate in the discussion. More information can be obtained by calling Milton Township at 269-591-7982. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services, and wish to attend the hearing, should contact the office of the Township Clerk, by writing or calling the Clerk, at least five (5) days prior to the hearing to ensure needed accommodations.

Kristen Barrera, Clerk
Milton Township Planning Commission

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE BY ADVERTISEMENT. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in CASS County, starting promptly at 10:00 AM, on November 19, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. MORTGAGE INFORMATION: Default has been made in the conditions of a certain mortgage made by William L. Smiley, a single person, whose address is 14260 M. 60 Highway, Jones, Michigan 49061, as original Mortgagors, to Wells Fargo Bank, N.A., being a mortgage dated February 8, 2010, and recorded on February 22, 2010 in Liber 1007 Page 22, Cass County Records, State of Michigan and then assigned to NewRez LLC d/b/a Shellpoint Mortgage Servicing, as assignee as documented by an assignment dated July 9, 2025 and recorded on July 9, 2025 in Liber 1262 Page 1415, Cass County Records, Michigan, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of THIRTY-ONE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED SEVENTY-ONE AND 59/100 DOLLARS ($31,571.59). Said premises are situated in the Township of Newberg, County of Cass, State of Michigan, and are described as: ALL THAT CERTAIN PARCEL OF LAND SITUATED IN TOWNSHIP OF NEWBERG, CASS COUNTY, STATE OF MICHIGAN, BEING KNOWN AND DESIGNATED AS FROM THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF SECTION 32, TOWN 6 SOUTH, RANGE 13 WEST, MEASURE SOUTH 89 DEGREES 52 MINUTES 58 SECONDS WEST ALONG THE NORTH LINE OF SAID SECTION 1211.50 FEET, THENCE MEASURE SOUTH 0 DEGREES 47 MINUTES 54 SECONDS EAST 937.74 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING OF THE LAND HEREIN DESCRIBED; THENCE CONTINUING SOUTH 0 DEGREES 47 MINUTES 54 SECONDS EAST 43.26 FEET; THENCE EAST 152.00 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 0 DEGREES 47 MINUTES 54 SECONDS EAST 253.43 FEET TO THE CENTER LINE OF STATE HIGHWAY M 60; THENCE NORTH 82 DEGREES 53 MINUTES 16 SECONDS WEST ALONG SAID CENTER LINE 376.92 FEET; THENCE NORTH 2 DEGREES 37 MINUTES 07 SECONDS EAST 184.14 FEET; THENCE NORTH 10 DEGREES 37 MINUTES 41 SECONDS EAST 38.94 FEET; THENCE NORTH 67 DEGREES 51 MINUTES 59 SECONDS EAST 72.96 FEET; THENCE NORTH 89 DEGREES 52 MINUTES 41 SECONDS EAST 134.71 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING. SUBJECT TO THAT PORTION ALONG THE SOUTHERLY SIDE THEREOF AS BEING USED FOR HIGHWAY PURPOSES. ALSO SUBJECT TO ANY EASEMENTS OR RESTRICTIONS OF RECORD. BY FEE SIMPLE DEED FROM TROTT & TROTT PC, AS ATTORNEY-IN-FACT FOR FEDERAL NATIONAL MORTGAGE ASSOCIATION. AS SET FORTH IN BOOK 985 PAGE 976 DATED 10/30/2008 AND RECORDED 11/04/2008, CASS COUNTY RECORDS. STATE OF MICHIGAN. Street Address: 14260 M. 60 Highway, Jones, Michigan 49061 The redemption period shall be 12 months from the date of such sale, unless the property is determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA § 600.3241a in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of the sale. If the property is sold at a foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCLA § 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. THIS FIRM IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION WE OBTAIN WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. ATTENTION HOMEOWNER: IF YOU ARE A MILITARY SERVICE MEMBER ON ACTIVE DUTY, IF YOUR PERIOD OF ACTIVE DUTY HAS CONCLUDED LESS THAN 90 DAYS AGO, OR IF YOU HAVE BEEN ORDERED TO ACTIVE DUTY, PLEASE CONTACT THE ATTORNEY FOR THE PARTY FORECLOSING THE MORTGAGE AT THE TELEPHONE NUMBER STATED IN THIS NOTICE. Dated: October 18, 2025, For more information, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing: Robert A. Blumberg (P87490), Johnson, Blumberg, & Associates, LLC, 30 North LaSalle St., Suite 3650 Chicago, Illinois, 60602. Telephone: (312) 541-9710 File No.: MI 25 6766

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Cass County, Michigan starting promptly at 10:00 a.m. on November 5, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. Mortgage (the "Mortgage") made by Patrick J. Brodzinski, a single man, as Mortgagor to First Federal Savings Bank, with its address at 301 East Ninth Street, Rochester, IN, 46975-0527 as Mortgagee, dated February 13, 2009, and recorded February 24, 2009, Liber 989, Page 2381, Cass County Records, Cass County, Michigan. The balance owing on the Mortgage is $47,662.36 at the time of this Notice. The Mortgage contains a power of sale and no suit or proceeding at law or in equity has been instituted to recover the debt secured by the Mortgage, or any part of the Mortgage. TAKE NOTICE that on Wednesday, November 5, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. local time, or any adjourned date thereafter, the Mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale at public auction to the highest bidder, at the Cass County Courthouse located at 60296 M 62, Cassopolis, Michigan. The Mortgagee will apply the sale proceeds to the debt secured by the Mortgage as stated above, plus interest on the amount due at the fixed rate of 5%per annum; all legal costs and expenses, including attorney fees allowed by law; and also any amount paid by the Mortgagee to protect its interest in the property. The property to be sold at foreclosure is all of that real estate situated in Milton Township, County of Cass, State of Michigan, described as: LOT NUMBERED FIVE (5), DUNNING ACRES, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF, AS RECORDED IN LIBER 16 OF PLATS, PAGE 333, CASS COUNTY RECORDS. PATRICK J. BRODZINSKI AND PATRICK JOHN BRODZINSKI ARE ONE AND THE SAME PERSON. Parcel No. 14-070-300-005-00 Commonly known address: 29154 E. US 12, Niles, Michigan 49120 The redemption period shall be one (1) year from the date of sale pursuant to MCLA 600.3240(12), unless deemed abandoned and then pursuant to the time frames provided for in MCL 600.3241a. Pursuant to MCL 600.3278, Mortgagor will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. September 15, 2025 First Federal Savings Bank PLUNKETT COONEY KELLI L. BAKER (P49960) Attorney for Mortgagee 333 Bridge Street NW, Suite 530 Grand Rapids, Michigan 49504 (616) 752-4624
(09-27)(10-25)

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING MILTON TOWNSHIP, CASS COUNTY, MI 32097 Bertrand St Niles, MI 49120

To: The residents and property owners of Milton Township, Cass County Michigan and any other interested parties.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE the Planning Commission of Milton Township, Cass County Michigan will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, November 4, 2025, commencing at 7:00 p.m., at the Milton Township Hall, 32097 Bertrand St, Niles MI 49120.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE the Planning Commission is considering an amendment to Milton Township Zoning Ordinance, as follows:

Section 1. Amendment of Section 3.12. Section 3.12 of the Milton Township Zoning Ordinance is amended to read in its entirety as follows:

Section 3.12 Land Divisions

1. No lot or parcel (platted or unplatted) shall be divided unless first approved by the Planning Commission.

2. Prior to review by the Planning Commission, the Township Zoning Administrator or Assessor shall review the application to ensure that there are splits available in accordance with the Michigan Land Division Act and any other public or private restrictions or regulations that may apply to the property.

3. The number of permitted land divisions shall not exceed the following limitations:

Existing Area of Parent Parcel as of (DATE), 2025	Maximum Number of Additional Lots Permitted
4 to 10	1
10.1 to 20	2
20.1 to 40	3
40.1 to 80	4
80.1 to 160	5
160.1 to 320	6
320.1 +	7

4. All parcels created after the __, 2025, shall contain the minimum required frontage on a public or approved private street.

5. No land division shall be permitted that results in the creation of a nonconforming building, lot, or use, unless the Planning Commission finds that the overall nonconforming situation would be improved by granting the division.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that written comments will be taken from any interested persons concerning the foregoing proposed amendment, at the Milton Township Hall, at the address set forth above, at any time during regular business hours up to 4:00 o'clock p.m. on the date of said hearing and will further be received by the Planning Commission at the time of said hearing.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that all persons interested in the foregoing are invited to be present at the aforesaid Public Hearing time and place to participate in the discussion. More information can be obtained by calling Milton Township at 269-591-7982. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services, and wish to attend the hearing, should contact the office of the Township Clerk, by writing or calling the Clerk, at least five (5) days prior to the hearing to ensure needed accommodations.

Kristen Barrera, Clerk
Milton Township Planning Commission

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE BY ADVERTISEMENT

Notice is given under Section 3212 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following Mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the Circuit Court in Cass County, Law and Courts Building 60296 M-62 Cassopolis, MI 49031 starting promptly at **10:00 a.m., Wednesday October 22, 2025.** The amount due on the Mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information.

Default has been made in the conditions of a Mortgage by Dale A. Wetzel, the original mortgagor, to Honor Credit Union, Mortgagee, dated July 21, 2023, and recorded on August 04, 2023, in Liber 1235 on Page 1550, in Cass County, Michigan Records, on which Mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of $55,896.81, including interest at 7.25% per annum. Said premises is situated in the County of Cass, State of Michigan, and described as:

Real Estate Located in the Township of Pokagon, County of Cass, State of Michigan and described as:
Lot Three (3), and the West One- Half of Lot Two (2), Block Eleven (11), Village of Summerville, Pokagon Township, Cass County, Michigan, according to the Plat
thereof, recorded at Liber A of Mortgages, Page 190, on August 22, 1836.
TAX ID: 14-110-140-113-00
Commonly known as: 33037 Pokagon Hwy, Niles, Michigan 49120

The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale. If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.

ATTENTION HOMEOWNER: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this Notice.

THIS FIRM IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION WE OBTAIN WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

Date: September 16, 2025

For more information, please call:
HONOR CREDIT UNION
Mark D. Hofstee (P66001)
Bolhouse, Hofstee & McLean, P.C.
Grandville State Bank Building
3996 Chicago Dr SW, Grandville MI 49418-1384

Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement
Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Cass County, starting promptly at 10:00 AM, on November 5, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information: Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Brittany Crane, an unmarried woman Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for lender and lender's successors and/or assigns Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Freedom Mortgage Corporation
Date of Mortgage: November 22, 2024
Date of Mortgage Recording: December 2, 2024
Amount claimed due on date of notice: $116,296.50
Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in Village of Cassopolis, Cass County, Michigan, and described as: Commencing on the Northeast corner of Lot Number 12, Block 3 South, Range 4 East, Altered Plat of the Village of Cassopolis, according to the recorded plat thereof, thence running South along the East line of said Lot Number 12, 3 1/2 rods; thence running West 6 rods, more or less, to the East line of property formerly owned by Henry Klinkman; thence running North on the East line of said Henry Klinkman's property to the North line of Lot Number 11 in said Block and Range; thence running East along the North line of said Lots Numbered 11 and 12 to the place of beginning.
Common street address (if any): 324 S East St, Cassopolis, MI 49031-1204
The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; or, if the subject real property is used for agricultural purposes as defined by MCL 600.3240(16). If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
This notice is from a debt collector.
Date of notice: October 4, 2025
Trott Law, P.C.
31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
1572952 (248) 642-2515
(10-04)(10-25)

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON THE SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT ROLL FOR THE OWNERS OF LAND WITHIN SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT NO. 98-1 TO THE RESIDENTS AND PROPERTY OWNERS OF WAYNE TOWNSHIP, CASS COUNTY, MICHIGAN AND TO ANY OTHER INTERESTED PERSONS:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Supervisor and the assessing officer for the Township has reported to the Township Board and filed in the office of the Township Clerk, a special assessment roll prepared by him covering all properties within the "Wayne Township Ambulance Service Special Assessment District No. 98-1" benefiting from ambulance service. Said assessment roll has been prepared for the purpose of assessing a portion of the costs of ambulance service and other costs incidental thereto within the aforesaid Special Assessment District, which district includes the entire township.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the assessing officer has further reported that the assessment against each parcel of land within said district is such relative portion of the whole sum levied against all parcels of land in said district as the benefit to such parcels bears to the total benefit to all parcels of land in said district. Said assessment is estimated to be not more than **$75.00** per occupied parcel for assessment in 2025.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the Township Board will meet at the Township Hall at 53950 Glenwood Road, Dowagiac, Michigan, on Thursday, November 6, 2025, at 6:30 P.M. for the purpose of reviewing said Special Assessment District Roll, hearing any objections thereto and thereafter confirming said District Roll as submitted or revised or amended. Residents may obtain a copy of or review the roll by contacting the Township Clerk at 782-7017 or at waynetownshipclerk@gmail.com and may further examine said roll at said hearing.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that appearance and protest at this hearing is required in order to appeal the amount of the Special Assessment to the State Tax Tribunal. An owner, or party in interest, or his or her agent, may appear in person at the hearing to protest the Special Assessment, or may file a letter of protest at or before the hearing, and in that event, personal appearance shall not be required. The owner or any person having an interest in the real property who protests in person or in writing at the hearing may file a written appeal of the Special Assessment with the State Tax Tribunal within thirty (30) days after the confirmation of the Special Assessment Roll.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that after the public hearing is closed, the Township Board may confirm the roll as submitted or as revised or amended; may provide for payment of special assessments; and may provide by resolution for any and all such other matters as are permitted by law with regard to Special Assessments for ambulance services.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that Wayne Township will provide reasonable auxiliary aids and services at the hearing for individuals with disabilities upon five (5) days' notice to the Township Clerk. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Clerk at the address or telephone number listed below.

WAYNE TOWNSHIP
53950 Glenwood Road, Dowagiac MI 49047-0304
phone: 269-782-7017 email: waynetownshipclerk@gmail.com
PUBLISHED October 18, 2025

Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.

Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Cass County, starting promptly at 10:00 AM on NOVEMBER 19, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information.

Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by Michael Antisdel and Sherry Antisdel, husband and wife, to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for First NLC Financial Services, LLC, Mortgagee, dated November 16, 2006, and recorded December 15, 2006, in Liber 950, Page 1099 Cass County Records, Michigan. Said mortgage is now held by Deutsche Bank National Trust Company, as Trustee, in trust for the registered holders of Morgan Stanley Home Equity Loan Trust 2007-2, Mortgage Pass-Through Certificates, Series 2007-2, by assignment. There is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of Ninety-Seven Thousand Seven Hundred Eleven and 60/100 Dollars ($97,711.60).

Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public venue at the place of holding the circuit court within Cass County, Michigan at 10:00 AM on NOVEMBER 19, 2025.

Said premises are located in the Township of Howard, Cass County Michigan, and are described as:
Parcel 1: Commencing on the East Line of Thomson Road 975 feet North and 33 feet East of the Southwest corner of the East 1/2 of the Southeast 1/4; thence East 298.61 feet; thence North 75 feet West 298.50 feet; thence South 75 feet to the beginning. Parcel 2: Commencing on the East line of Thomson Road 900 feet North and 33 feet East of the Southwest corner of the East 1/2 of the Southeast 1/4; thence East 628.52 feet; thence North 150 feet; thence West 329.80 feet; thence South 75 feet; thence West 298.61 feet; thence South 75 feet to beginning.
1235 Thomson Road, Niles, Michigan 49120.

The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA §600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale.

If the property is sold at foreclosure sale, pursuant to MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damage to the property during the redemption period.
Dated: October 4, 2025
File No. 25-012467
Firm Name: Orlans Law Group PLLC
Firm Address: 1650 West Big Beaver Road, Troy MI 48084
Firm Phone Number: (248) 502.1400
(10-04)(10-25)

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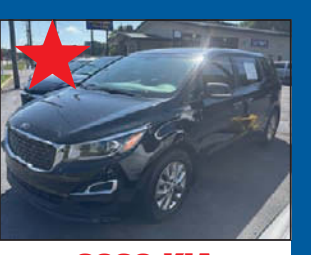

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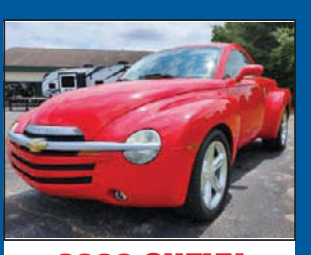

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